

## Special Libyan envoy in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — A special envoy of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi arrived in Cairo Tuesday for talks on reopening the Libyan-Egyptian border, closed during more than a decade of strained relations. Official sources identified the envoy as Ahmad Gaddafi Eddam, a cousin of Qaddafi, who has made several unofficial and unannounced visits to Egypt since President Hosni Mubarak took office in 1981. The border was closed after a brief frontier war in 1977 and Cairo has accused Libya of plotting sabotage attacks against it and of trying to kill Libyan exiles living in Egypt. But Mubarak held two reconciliation meetings with Qaddafi at the Arab summit in Morocco last week and said afterwards the atmosphere between the neighbouring countries had improved. However he added that differences remained. Egyptian officials have said Cairo was preparing to reopen its border with Libya, although they denied a report by the Middle East News Agency (MENA) that border crossings were already open (see page 2).

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

## Arafat in Mali on mediation effort

BAMAKO (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived in the Malian capital Bamako Tuesday to brief President Moussa Traore on diplomatic moves to reconcile Senegal and Mauritania. The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) told reporters he had visited Mauritania and Senegal to support Traore's efforts to mend a rift between the two West African states. Traore, who chairs the 50-member Organisation of African Unity, hopes to arrange a second round of talks in Bamako between Senegal and Mauritania. The two countries have been at loggerheads since hundreds of people were killed in riots triggered by a minor border incident last month. Senegal and Mauritania have since positioned troops along their river border. Arafat has close relations with Senegal and Mauritania is a member of the 22-member Arab League. Arafat is also expected to brief Traore on last week's Arab summit in Morocco which saw the return of Egypt into the Arab fold.

Volume 14 Number 4098

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1989, SHAWWAL 26, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## King pays high tribute to independence festival

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday paid tribute to the organisers and participants of a grand festival held Monday as part of Jordan's Independence Day anniversary celebrations. In a message of appreciation and thanks he sent to Education Minister Abdullah Nsour, the King voiced pride and satisfaction over the festival in which over 6,000 students took part with high-standard exercise and dance performance

against impressive backdrops. "Such well-organised and disciplined events embody the meaning of our pride and belonging," the King said. "Great efforts were made to the festival a success and they deserve from us every gratitude and appreciation," the King said. The festival not only represented perfect planning and performance but also reflected the dedicated, untiring efforts made by its organisers, the King said.

"It has revived the hope of our nation to achieve a bright future and enhanced our confidence," he said. "It also reflected our children's national pride and resolve to play their role in confronting challenges posed in our development process," he added. The King praised the Ministry of Education and all participants in the festival as well as all institutions which played a role in organising the event.

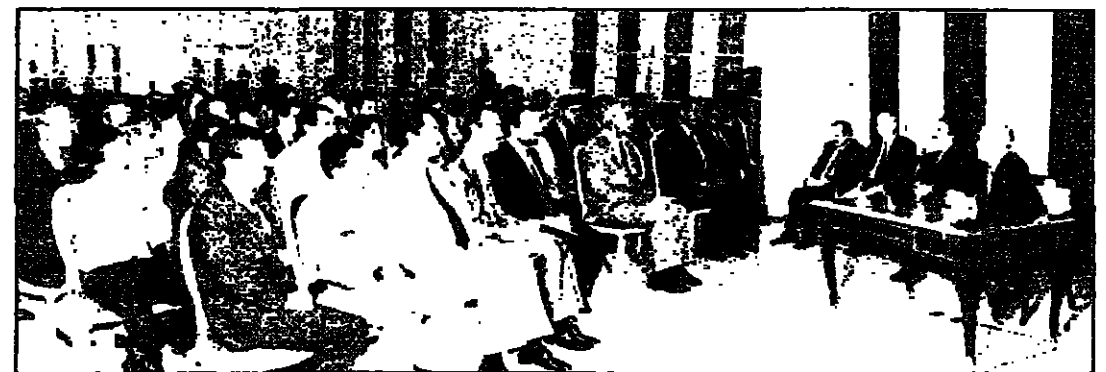


H.M. King Hussein

## King calls for fresh turn in information system

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday called on representatives of the local information media to open channels of dialogue and communication with the citizens to boost mutual trust between officials and the public and exercise accuracy and honesty in dealing with issues that concern the citizen and country.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday addresses a gathering of representatives of the information media in Jordan (Petra photo).

issue, the Lebanese conflict and the post-ceasefire situation between Iraq and Iran.

The King said Egypt's formal readmittance into the Arab League had allowed it to resume its rightful place in the Arab Nation.

The King expressed hope that the next Arab summit, which is expected to take place in Saudi Arabia, would be more successful in resolving issues that were not completely solved during the Casablanca summit.

King Hussein said that along with the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union, the Arab Cooperation Council

(ACC) — which groups Jordan with Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen — form the corner stones in support of the Arab League and serves to boost Arab solidarity.

In a frank and extensive exchange of ideas with members of the press, the King listened to various views over the general situation in the Kingdom, especially in journalism. The exchange of ideas covered means of enhancing journalists' performance in order to better serve the citizens in communicating their grievances to responsible officials.

The King also called on representatives of the media to concen-

trate on Jordanian youth in identifying their aims and aspirations, portraying their contributions to society and encouraging their role in developing the country.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan also discussed with media representatives Jordan's information policy and its political, social and professional aspects, in addition to the role of the press in boosting confidence among citizens.

The informal meeting comes in the context of guidelines issued to the month-old government to liberalise the local media in the larger framework of calm and responsible dialogue.

## Bankers welcome new exchange rules

By Rana Sabbagh Reuters

AMMAN — Bankers and economists have cautiously welcomed the return of a flexible exchange rate as a move to foster trust in Jordan's economy.

But they said success would hinge on whether the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) had enough foreign currency to manage the market.

"This is a step in the right direction," economist Riad Al Khouri said Tuesday. "But the Central Bank has to take other complementary moves like liberalising foreign exchange laws to regain people's trust."

Central Bank Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi

announced Monday that the CBJ was linking the dinar once again to a trade-based basket of foreign currencies.

The bank would abandon its rigid exchange rate — frozen at 540 fils to the dollar February 8 — and resume setting the rates daily, he said.

The dinar was set at 570 fils to the dollar Monday.

Nabulsi said the Central Bank would intervene in the market when necessary and would supply foreign exchange to banks to meet recognised needs. Priority would be given to students abroad and to importers of food and industrial supplies.

"We are optimistic that the Central Bank has some hard currency reserves which could be spared for our use," said a

banker. "Stability will only be achieved if the Central Bank physically intervenes in the market."

Another banker struck a pessimistic note. "The Central Bank would need enough money to back the daily rates and the operations of banks," she said. "Whatever they have now is not enough as they face other pressing priorities like setting official imports and repaying government debts."

But bankers and economists generally expect Arab countries to offer financial support to Jordan after price riots in April. "What can restore confidence is more Arab aid and adherence to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) economic reforms package," economist Fahd Al Fanek told

Reuters. Nabulsi, who headed the Central Bank from 1973 to 1985 and was reappointed on May 20 after a government shake-up, said the basic aim of Jordan's agreement with the IMF was to allow the country to reschedule most of its foreign debt of \$8.1 billion.

Arab donors have announced no new aid for Jordan since a 10-year pact to provide \$1.25 billion a year expired last July. Actual aid fell far short of that.

A chief dealer at a local bank welcomed Nabulsi's decision to fix the exchange rates daily.

"It was so wrong to maintain a rigid exchange rate of the dinar for such a long time," he said. "No one can determine what the realistic rate of the dinar should be."

## Shelling rocks Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese gunners staged the first major violation of a two-week old ceasefire Tuesday after disclosure of an alleged plot to kill a top Lebanese leader, believed to be army chief Michel Aoun.

Forces loyal to Aoun traded artillery and tank fire with militiamen of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) across the mountain ridge of Souq Al Gharb southeast of Beirut, reports said.

They said shells hit residential areas in the first major breach of a ceasefire declared on May 11 after Arab League mediation.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said black smoke billowed over Souq Al-Gharb. Shells fell at the rate of two to three minutes near Aoun's already-battered presidential palace in the suburb of Baabba, reports said.

Cypriot police announced Monday they had arrested six men with Lebanese passports for allegedly plotting to kill "a prominent Lebanese" by shooting down his helicopter with a surface-to-air-missile over Larnaca airport.

Political and security sources in Lebanon said Aoun was the target. (See page 2).

"Lebanese responsibility"

King Hassan II of Morocco said Tuesday that the solution to the Lebanon crisis is in the hands of the Lebanese and that a committee of Arab heads of state was created during the Casablanca summit only to help.

Hassan, speaking at a news conference in Rabat about the summit, said the Lebanese must be patient. He said many parties both inside and outside Lebanon did not want the conflict to end.

Clash reported

A patrol of Israeli soldiers and allied Lebanese militiamen Tuesday shot and killed a guerrilla in the second clash in Israel's "security zone" in South Lebanon in three days, the army said.

An Israeli army official said a guerrilla dressed in military camouflage was spotted early Tuesday morning east of the town of Marjayoun. Army sources said the victim was a Palestinian trying to infiltrate into Israel.

## 9 shot and wounded in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least nine Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Tuesday, one day after Jewish settlers attacked a West Bank village and shot dead a 16-year-old Palestinian girl.

Also Tuesday, leaders of the Jewish settlement of Ariel, set up in the occupied West Bank in 1977, announced that Palestinians who work there will have to wear tags identifying them as "foreign workers."

Nine Palestinians were shot and wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories, seven in the Gaza Strip and two in the West Bank, hospital officials said.

Israeli police arrested 30 Israelis in the West Bank Tuesday in a hunt for settlers who rampaged through an Arab village and shot dead a teenage girl, reports said.

Those arrested in the settlements of Eilon Moreh and Itzhak near Nablus included Jewish religious seminary students.

Many Jewish settlers have launched a series of vigilante raids, burning cars, breaking windows, beating and sometimes shooting Palestinians.

Israeli commentators say the scope of the violence between the settlers and Palestinians was unprecedented. Some raised fears a major bloodletting could occur if violence got out of hand.

The attack Monday was the bloodiest so far by settlers opposed to the 17-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

"They fired like madmen," Maariv newspaper quoted a senior military source as saying of raid on Kif Harith.

The Hebrew-language Haaretz daily quoted what it said were senior military sources as saying the raid was "clear provocation

by settlers."

A police report said the settlers split into two groups at the entrance to Kif Harith, with one group circling to enter from the rear and setting fire to haystacks.

Both groups fired as they went, the police report said, damaging cars, houses, water tanks and killing a donkey.

After the two groups joined up at an ancient tomb in the village, there was a clash in which the 16-year-old girl, Itisam Bozieh, was shot dead, her brother seriously wounded and a second boy slightly injured, it said.

The girl's mother, Samia Bozieh, told the AP Tuesday that Itisam had been alone in a front room when the shooting started.

The modest, two-storey house is about 30 metres from the tomb. "We heard some shots," Bozieh said. She said her daughter said "Mommy, I'm shot here" and clutched her chest before falling to the floor.

## PLO calls on U.S. to specify confidence-building measures

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) wants U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to propose specific reciprocal confidence-building measures to the Palestinian and Israelis, a newsletter reported Tuesday.

The London-based Mideast Mirror said the proposal was made by Hani Al Hassan, the political adviser of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

It quoted Hassan as saying in an interview that Baker should "present an initiative that includes clear demands addressed to the Israelis and clear demands addressed to the Palestinians, both based on the principle of reciprocity... and mutual security."

A copy of the interview was teleaxed to the AP in Bahrain. "There must be reciprocal measures to end the racism and the hatred. There must be reciprocal measures if we are to start any peace operation," Hassan said.

He pledged the Palestinians would cooperate. Baker will "see that the Palestinian side has no problem keeping its commitments, and that the problem is

that (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir is not ready for peace," he said.

It was up to Baker, he said, "to forge a policy that would persuade Shamir to accept balance mutual security, that would eliminate the walls of hatred that Shamir is building every day, and remove the obstacles that are blocking peace negotiations."

Hassan's proposal came as the nearly 18-month Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip escalated with Israeli settlers attacking Arab villages.

Hassan said last week's Arab summit conference in Casablanca had transformed the Palestinian peace strategy into an Arab peace initiative by adopting the PLO approach.

He said this "eliminated another pretext used by Shamir who had told the Americans he wanted a peace initiative acceptable to Arabs, not the Palestinians alone."

Appeal to Israel

King Hassan of Morocco

appealed to Israel Tuesday not to waste time in responding to Arab peace moves.

The whole Arab World had decided to take the path of peace, the king told a news conference in Rabat on the results of last week's Arab summit in Casablanca.

"Now it is up to the other party (Israel) to respond. I say it has no reason to pay for time, for every movement that passes is in favour of the Arabs and not in favour of Israel," he said.

King Hassan said the summit had reiterated demands for a Palestinian state with its own frontiers, flag and sovereignty.

"If there were any concessions they were not either on fundamental issues or aims, but rather a question of flexibility to better follow the international climate and avoid appearing negative," he said.

The international climate had evolved in favour of the Palestinians during the past year, he said, notably through Arafat's visits to France and Spain and messages of support sent by world leaders to the Casablanca summit.

## Water rationed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) began rationing water in Amman Tuesday after the driest April in 60 years threatened vital harvest.

WAJ Planning Director Abdul Rahman Omari told Reuters low rainfall meant all water in the King Abdullah Dam, Amman's main source of water, would be kept for farmers in the Jordan Valley.

Rationing will include the northern governorates of Irbid, Zarqa, Mafraq and Ajloun, while the south, with above average rainfall, will remain untouched, according to a WAJ announcement.

Rainfall this year has been highly irregular with a long dry spell beginning March 26, Reuters quoted Ali Abanda, head of the Meteorology Department, as saying.

Agriculture Ministry officials estimated this year's wheat yield would be down to about 40,000 tonnes, half of last year's and less than 10 per cent of the Kingdom's needs.

But the shortage is only the latest stage of Jordan's continuing water problem.

"Our resources cannot face peak demand," Omari said, adding that rationing was more severe than in previous years.

Work at the Al Wahdah Dam project on the Syrian-Jordanian border began this year to tap the Yarmouk River. Further growth in supply will depend on desalination, recycling, and deeper pumping.

## Chinese students, workers unite

PEKING (Agencies) — Protesting Chinese students, their numbers and morale boosted by a "Statue of Liberty" unveiled at Tiananmen Square, joined workers Tuesday to confront police over the fate of three missing union leaders.

About 1,000 students and workers marched to the ministry of public security and camped there after blocking the gates of Peking's police headquarters for more than five hours to press for information on the three.

Leaders of the unofficial Peking Workers' Autonomous Federation, which backs the students, said the workers had been taken away by police Monday night and early Tuesday morning, apparently for participating in pro-democracy protests.

Defying warnings that their assembly was illegal under martial law, the students said they would leave only after receiving word about the three, believed to be the first to be detained in Peking in connection with the demonstrations.

The number of students, which had dwindled in the past week, swelled again to over 30,000 on Tuesday evening after a rough 10-metre-high replica of the Statue of Liberty was unveiled earlier in the day at the northern end of the square.

The polystyrene and plaster statue has become the latest symbol of the students' determination to continue with their defiance of authority despite government statements in recent days which indicated an ideological crack-down was imminent.

State television in an evening broadcast quoted officials as saying the statue had been erected illegally and was "a humiliation of the Chinese nation in such a solemn place."

People pressed around the replica taking photographs of each other, curious and excited, recreating some of the atmosphere of pro-democracy demonstrations earlier this month before headline Premier Li Peng declared martial law in Peking May 20.

Rebellious citizens stopped

troops entering Peking to implement martial law. But the city gradually returned to normality as hardliners in the leadership appeared to be winning a power struggle against reformists more sympathetic to the demonstrators.

The appearance of the replica of the New York harbour giant statue coincided with attacks by Communist Party hardliners on "bourgeois liberalism," a phrase previously used to denigrate Western democratic ideals.

Student leaders, who have vowed to remain at Tiananmen at least until a June 20 meeting of the standing committee of China's parliament, said they were still registering volunteers for a hunger strike to be staged this week.

More than 300 intellectuals had signed up so far, still short of their target of 3,000, student leader Li Lu said.

"We will stay on until the government meets our demands or sends in troops to drag us out," said Liu Tian, a Peking film

institute student who has camped out at Tiananmen since May 13.

Communist Party hardliners, who reportedly have wrested control of the leadership in a power struggle sparked by the student protests, have taken the stance that students are well-intentioned but non-students who are misleading them would be punished.

Already, workers who have joined demonstrations or supported the movement are being fined or having their pay docked. Others are being threatened with losing their jobs.

Several hundred students who came to the capital from outside Peking said they were to return home Tuesday to spread the word of the students' dramatic appeal for a freer and more open China.

A few thousand continued living in a squatters' camp on Tiananmen Square, refusing to end their occupation.

Troops brought to Peking to enforce martial law continued to camp on the outskirts of the capital, but remained off the streets.



## Egyptian-Libyan border to reopen after 10 years

## Mubarak urges united Arab effort for peace

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak spoke Tuesday of a new spirit of cooperation among Arab states and urged them to unite to end lingering Middle Eastern conflicts and bloodshed.

Mubarak told parliament that many regional leaders have agreed in discussions as recent as last week's Arab League summit meeting in Casablanca that finding peace depends on the Arabs working together.

"Why don't we all cooperate and continue the road to peace with united thought and determination?" Mubarak asked in an hour-long report on the summit meeting. "The bloodshed and continued destruction will not end without (efforts towards) peace."

Mubarak said the main regional issues that must be dealt with are the Palestinians' problem, the civil war in Lebanon and the impasse in the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

Many commentators gave Mubarak high marks for state-manship at Casablanca for his efforts to mend Arab fences.

Mubarak said his talks at the summit with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi were positive.

"There are still flaws affecting some relationships, but the new thing is that everyone is standing in the same ring with the spirit of cooperation," the president said.

Before Casablanca, "I was bothered by the torn Arab relations that had pushed us to the edge of the precipice," he said.

"Our aim is to unite and save the Arab Nation from collapsing. We need a new and cohesive Arab Nation, able to take an

active role in the peace process." He said Egypt's relations with all Arab, African and Islamic countries were "normal and well."

Egypt opened its borders with neighbouring Libya Monday for the first time in more than a decade.

At the same time, Libya's official news agency JANA distributed a conciliatory dispatch, quoting the Egyptian president as saying Qadhafi was receptive to his ideas at their summit meeting.

Passport, customs, security and health officials have been sent to the border coastal city of Mersa Matruh to await an order to open the border.

Mubarak had said in the past he would not reopen the border until flights between Cairo and Tripoli were resumed as a sign of Libya's good intentions.

Mubarak urged all Egyptians, including political opponents, to close ranks to try to overcome the

country's economic problems. Mubarak said Egypt now had better chances of winning investment from other Arab countries.

"The new Arab solidarity will promote further economic cooperation which will lead to home development," Mubarak said.

But he said unity at home was essential to cope with serious economic problems, including heavy foreign debts, rising prices and food shortages.

"I call on all the Egyptian people, whatever their differences or views, to unite in tackling our problems," Mubarak said.

"We must all work hard, hands together, leaving aside local strife and tensions, wasting no time in futile arguments."

Opposition groups, especially Muslim fundamentalists seeking imposition of Islamic laws, have attempted to cash in on the government's economic difficulties.

## Cyprus holds 6 in possible Aoun attack

NICOSIA (R) — A Cypriot court ordered six men with Lebanese passports held Tuesday while police investigated an alleged plot to kill Lebanese army commander Michel Aoun with anti-aircraft missiles.

Nicosia district court Judge Andreas Krambis remanded the men in custody for eight days to allow police to prepare charges against them after shoulder-held missiles and arms were seized.

A police spokesman earlier said a prominent Lebanese had been the target of an assassination plot.

Security sources in Beirut identified the target as Major-General Aoun, the head of a military government locked in a bitter feud with a civilian government for power in Lebanon.

The sources said an assassina-

tion squad had planned to shoot down Aoun's helicopter when he arrived at Cyprus to fly on to Morocco for last week's Arab League summit. Aoun did not go.

Five of the men were arrested by police after amateur divers spotted two Soviet-made surface-to-air missiles wrapped in plastic in the sea near Larnaca airport Sunday.

A police raid on a Larnaca apartment Monday netted triggers for the SAM-7 missile launchers, assault rifles, ammunition, hand grenades and other equipment.

The sixth man had been held by police Friday after he was spotted acting suspiciously on the Larnaca seafloor.

Judge Krambis said police had sufficient evidence to link the men with the arms cache. He said

the police wanted to verify the identity of the men, all of whom had Lebanese passports but no visas for Cyprus.

They were named as Teofik Wadih Al Ashaar, Idriss Jamal Jaber, Wadih Salim Salaman, Rostom Najib Sarhan, Imad Salaman Al Khafasi and Emile Ghazali. All appeared to be in their 20s.

Security sources in Beirut said they had no record of the names and the men might have forged Lebanese passports.

The sources said there was close coordination between the Lebanese army and the Cypriot authorities and senior officers close to Aoun might come to Cyprus to help in the investigation.

The detained men, who arrived

in court handcuffed in pairs under heavy police guard, said they had no comment to make.

Dressed in holiday attire, they grinned as police testified and regularly corrected the Arab translator's pronunciation of the weaponry found in Monday's raid.

"No speak, no speak," said Ashaar when a journalist asked him if they had planned to kill Aoun. Asked if he spoke English, he said "yes."

Outside the court, Police Chief Superintendent Stelios Karayias told Reuters that Ghazali arrived in Cyprus before the rest to "make all the arrangements."

"The other five came unlawfully in a kind of vessel. As they approached the coast, they left this and boarded two rubber dinghies," he said.

## Sudan relief continues despite attacks

KHARTOUM (AP) — Gunmen killed three people and seriously injured one in an attack on a United Nations-sponsored convoy delivering emergency food from Uganda to the war-torn southern Sudan, a U.N. official said Monday.

Diane Weathers, a spokeswoman for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said it was not immediately possible to identify the nationality of the dead and injured "except they were not U.N. staffers."

Despite the attack, Van Den Top, director for the World Food Programme in Rome emphasised that food deliveries by trucks to south Sudan will continue.

Weathers said earlier in Nairobi

bi that United Nations officials had postponed emergency food deliveries by road between Kaya and Juba, through Yei as a result of the attack.

An ongoing airlift from Entebbe, Uganda, to southern Sudan regional capital, Juba, will continue, she said.

The convoy later proceeded to Yei, arriving Monday morning. It was attacked halfway between Kaya, a town in northwestern Uganda near the border with Sudan, to Yei in southwestern Equatoria province.

Another convoy from Kampala, Uganda, was scheduled to depart Yei to Juba later.

Train arrives safely

Meanwhile, the first train in

the U.N.-organised operation "Lifeline Sudan" arrived safely in the southern town of Aweil, according to Fadlallah Burma Nasser, Sudanese minister of transport.

Nasser told reporters the train arrived at its final destination, Aweil in Bahr Al Ghazal region Sunday afternoon, ten days after it set off. He said its relief supplies were being unloaded.

It carried 1,500 metric tons of supplies, parts of which were unloaded in rebel-held areas along the way to Aweil. Two days after it began its trip south, May 21, the train was stopped by more than 100 armed bandits for about 24 hours in a government-controlled area. The gang stole personal belongings of three Western re-

lief officials. Both the government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) denounced the attack and relief officials blamed it on roving bandits.

James Grant of the United Nations Children's Fund told reporters in Khartoum Monday that the train will be the spearhead of another three trains and that the armed attack on it will not discourage relief officials from carrying on.

"We do take some risks, we will examine the circumstances but will not stop," he said.

In addition to the three trains, a barge is also scheduled to carry food to south Sudan beginning June 10, Grant said.

## Iranian rebel fighters put on alert

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iranian rebels in Iraq have been put on maximum alert following reports that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's health was deteriorating after surgery to stop intestinal bleeding a week ago, opposition officials reported Tuesday.

Hussein Mehdiavi, a senior official of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, told the Associated Press the movement's military force, the National Liberation Army (NLA) of Iran, went on alert Sunday.

The Mujahadeen claimed Monday that Khomeini, 80, has suffered a heart attack Saturday while he was recovering from

surgery in a Tehran hospital. Tehran Television said Monday that the revolutionary patriarch had suffered a "mild heart complication" at the weekend, but that he was recovering from the surgery he underwent last Tuesday.

Khomeini suffered a heart attack in 1980 and is reported to have had another one in 1986.

Mehdiavi, the Mujahadeen's "foreign minister," said that Khomeini's death would be "an historic moment" that would dramatically alter the situation in Iran.

Mujahadeen leader Massoud Rajavi met with his military com-

manders at a base near the Iranian border Saturday and Mujahadeen sources said they discussed military and political options that would be opened by Khomeini's death.

Weeks before the Gulf war ceasefire took effect Aug. 20, the NLA launched its biggest operation into western Iran, reaching the city of Bakhtiari, 145 kilometres inside Iran, before withdrawing across the Iraqi border.

Iran has been gripped by political upheaval since the ceasefire, as a power struggle between rival factions for supremacy after Khomeini dies has intensified.

Khomeini deepened that uncertainty in March when he forced his designated successor, Ayatollah Hussein-Ali Montazeri, to resign after he criticised Khomeini's policies and the revolution's shortcomings.

Mujahadeen claim that hundreds of their activists and sympathisers have been killed in a widespread purge of dissidents in recent months.

Rebel officials have said that Khomeini's alarm at Montazeri's alleged connections with the Mujahadeen underlined the extent to which the Tehran hierarchy feared the opposition group.



Some of the estimated 20,000 Muslims who protested in London Saturday hang author Salman Rushdie in effigy during a demonstration against the publication of his book "The Satanic Verses."

## Rafsanjani lauds anti-Rushdie protest

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani Tuesday praised Muslims who joined a demonstration in London calling for the death of author Salman Rushdie.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted Rafsanjani as telling the Majlis, the Iranian parliament, "The Muslims, in support of the imam's fatwa embraced danger and made a presence that was unprecedented in recent decades."

Iranians refer to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as the imam or spiritual leader.

Khomeini issued a religious decree Feb. 14 that called for the death of Rushdie, a British citizen, for blaspheming against Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

The move led to a break in relations between Britain and Iran.

## Iran presidential election date set

NICOSIA (AP) — Presidential elections in Iran have been set for Aug. 18, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Monday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the Interior Ministry in Tehran as saying an announcement was expected to set the start of the election campaign July 16.

It said Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani was the "front runner." No one else has announced his candidacy.

President Ali Khamenei's second four-year term expires this summer and he is barred by the constitution from running again.

Khamenei and a group called the Combatant Clergyman's Society back Rafsanjani, the report said.

The society broke away from the more conservative Association of Combatant Clergymen during the 1988 elections for parliament.

The group, which registered as a political party earlier this year, was opposed to the free market economic policies supported by the association. The association has also backed Rafsanjani.

Rafsanjani, also acting head of the armed forces, is leader of the pragmatic faction that was rebuilding ties to the West to help Iran reconstruction after the eight-year war with Iraq.

Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini reversed that trend earlier this year by calling for renewed revolutionary fervor and unseating his designated successor for questioning the revolution's accomplishments.

The presidential post will take on an added significance if the review panel supports an expected committee system to inherit Khomeini's role.

No candidate has emerged from the factions arrayed against Rafsanjani.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

## GCC ministers discuss open press

BAHRAIN (R) — Information ministers of six Gulf Arab states began talks in Bahrain Tuesday on how to become more open and accessible to the media. "We want to be more open to the local and international press by speaking more freely and more objectively... we also want to be more accessible," Bahrain Information Minister Tariq Al Moayed told Reuters. Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) "want to make sure the right picture is projected, and that channels of information are quickly available as events are happening," he added. They aimed to agree on "a common policy to be projected through the foreign media," he said. The GCC groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in an economic and political alliance. Censorship is rare, but newspapers in all six states generally avoid publishing stories on sensitive issues and officials contacted by reporters rarely speak on the record.

## France to stay in Gulf

NICOSIA (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand was quoted as saying in remarks published Monday that France would maintain its naval presence in the Gulf until instability in the region ended. "France, like Oman, attaches top priority to freedom of navigation in international waters... and its naval presence in the area will continue until all sources of instability vanish," the Oman News Agency reported Mitterrand as saying. Mitterrand's interview with the agency, received in Nicosia, was published on the eve of a three-day visit to France by Sultan Qaboos of Oman — his first official trip to the country. The French president said discussions with Sultan Qaboos would cover Palestinian and Lebanese problems as well as the situation in the Gulf where a U.N.-brokered ceasefire has been in force since last August.

## Tremors continue to rock S. Iran

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Strong aftershocks continued to shake Kohgiluyeh-Boyer-Ahmad province in south Iran Monday, damaging buildings but causing no casualties, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said earthquakes registering 4.2 and 4.6 on the Richter Scale rocked the town of Dogbadan and nearby villages overnight. It said several government buildings and public places were damaged but no casualties were reported. The area, about 600 kilometres south of Tehran, had been jolted by a series of tremors Saturday and Sunday and several village houses were destroyed. The strongest measured 5.9 on the Richter Scale. IRNA said that Gaschran province was hit by 11 tremors during the past 48 hours, and that 27 houses were destroyed and 47 others damaged in Khabel and Bibjan villages.

## Bahrain opens test-tube centre

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain opened its first test-tube baby centre Tuesday. Medical officials said 160 patients had registered for treatment at the in-vitro fertilisation unit at the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) hospital. Bahrain's unit is a joint project between the BDF hospital and the Arabian Gulf University and is associated with Lister Hospital in London.

## U.S. marine drowns in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — A U.S. marine assigned to the American embassy in Kuwait drowned last Thursday in the embassy pool, an embassy spokesman said Tuesday. "The sailor, while swimming at the embassy pool apparently struck his head on the side of the pool and lost consciousness. He was discovered on the bottom of the pool," the spokesman said. He cannot be named under embassy rules. The marine was pronounced dead on arrival at Amir Hospital, Kuwait's main medical facility. An autopsy will be performed and the incident is being investigated, he said. The spokesman said the man's name was being withheld pending notification of his next of kin. The Kuwait daily newspaper Al Watan reported that the marine was thrown in to the pool by a group of colleagues during a children's party at the embassy. Al Watan said the marines were called back to the pool by a child, who noticed that the sailor could not swim, but were too late to revive him.

## Egyptian police detain poll candidate

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police have detained an election candidate and 17 supporters in the southern province of Assiut ahead of a key poll for the country's consultative Shura council, the Middle East News Agency reported Monday. The agency did not say when the arrests were made in Assiut, long regarded as a stronghold of Muslim fundamentalists. It said Montasser Quraishi and his followers, representing an alliance of the Labour Party, Socialist Liberal Party and Muslim Brotherhood, were held in the town of Dayroot. The 17 were held pending investigations into the distribution of pamphlets in the area. Interior ministry officials in Cairo were not immediately available for comment. More than 1,500 suspected Muslim militants have been arrested throughout Egypt over the past two months. Many are held under emergency powers introduced after the assassination of President Anwar Sadat by religious zealots in 1981. Elections for the shura council — which has no legislative powers but is part of President Hosni Mubarak's attempts to broaden democratic debate in the country — are due June 8.

## Turkey questions Iran on executed Turks

ANKARA (R) — Turkey is demanding details from Iran about why two Turks were executed in Tehran Sunday for drugs dealing, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. "At no stage of the apprehension, trial and execution of two of our citizens, have Turkish authorities been informed by Iranian officials," ministry spokesman Inal Batu said. Turkey knew of the execution of long-distance bus drivers Huseyin Sakiz and Ali Sumbul only from press reports, he said. Iran's official news agency IRNA said earlier they were among 19 men hanged in public Sunday. Four women were executed in prison the same day. "Turkey has demanded information from the Iranian Foreign Ministry," Batu said.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children's programmes
17:25	Programme on arts
17:50	Programme on world news
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Cairo News Message
18:45	Local programme
19:20	Common mistakes
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic writing
21:30	Wrestling
22:30	Varities programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Les Piques Asoties
18:30	Des Chiffres Et de Lettres
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Life with Lucy
21:10	Documentary
22:00	News in English
22:20	Poor Little Rich Girl
PRAYER TIMES	
03:54	Fajr
05:26	Sunrise (Source/Dubai)
12:33	Dhuhr
16:14	Asr
19:40	Maghreb

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	Min./max. temp.
Amman	14 / 26
Aqaba	22 / 35
Dead Sea	16 / 30
Jordan Valley	20 / 35
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 40 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul	898140
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Awad	741391
Dr. Hani Haddadin	777751
Dr. Fakher Balbasi	625778
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fetrow's pharmacy	770336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairouth pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
IRBID:	
Dr. Laith Al-Shalabi	(—)
AL SHARAA pharmacy	(985234)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Ghaleb Abu 'Idch	995430
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Civil Defence Emergency	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blind Bank	775121
Highway Police	643402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	773111
Jordan Television	774111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53300
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53300
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Husein Medical Centre	813813/2
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	661174
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abdali	6612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali	661144
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	7751126
Army, Marfa	8916115
Queen Alia Hospital	0224050
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)996732
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)5330-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
10:10	Damascus (RJ)
10:10	Paris (RJ)
10:30	Aqaba (RJ)
10:30	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:00	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
11:15	Larnaca (RJ)
17:20	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
18:00	Riyadh (RJ)
18:05	New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:45	London, Geneva (RJ)
18:55	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:30	Madrid, Rome (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:55	Aqaba (RJ)
11:45	Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
12:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30	Riyadh (RJ)
12:30	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
13:00	Geneva, London (RJ)
13:00	Calcutta (RJ)
13:00	Dubai, Dhahran (RJ)
13:40	Bahrain, Dubai (RJ)
21:00	Dhahran (RJ)
21:10	Baghdad (RJ)
21:15	Jeddah (RJ)
21:20	Marowe (RJ)
21:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:00	Damascus (RJ)
23:00	Bangkok (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:30	Cairo, London (BA)
06:35	Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
11:20	Cairo (MS)
12:30	Rome (AZ)
14:00	Benghazi (LN)
14:15	Baghdad (



# A peasant priest crusades for the down trodden and poor

By Keith Grant  
Reuters

**NUEVA CONCEPCION, Guatemala** — In Guatemala's almost feudal countryside, some of the worst violence in modern Latin American history, helping the down-trodden peasants is asking for trouble.

Armed bands roam the countryside, intimidating peasants and pushing them off the land. In November, 22 peasants were tortured to death at San Andres Itzapan, about 65 kilometres west of the capital.

A ray of hope for peasants in recent years has been Father Andres Giron, 42, a self-described social revolutionary who has risked his life challenging the oligarchy with a peasant movement he claims is now 250,000 strong.

Last September Giron escaped death in an ambush when gunmen stopped his car near Tiquisate, about 95 kilometres south of the capital, killing his bodyguard.

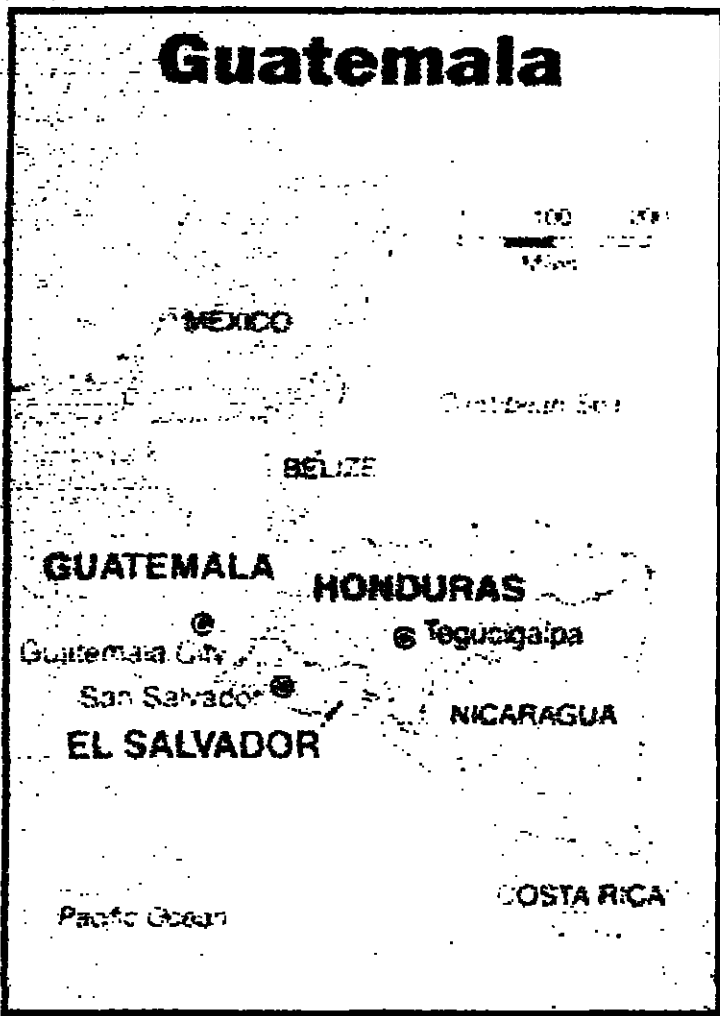
"I believe it was a warning," Giron said in an interview at his parish church of Nueva Concepcion, in the hot lowlands of the Pacific coast that account for most of Guatemala's farm produce.

"They accuse me of being a communist and worse... it makes me fear all my efforts have been in vain," he said during a break in receiving the many peasants who come to seek his advice.

Giron has eight armed bodyguards who watch over him constantly. He would like his national peasant association to press for more land distribution, but acknowledges this is highly dangerous.

Guatemala is possibly Latin America's most backward nation as far as land distribution is concerned. About one per cent of the population owns 70 per cent of the land.

During the last century, much of the land belonged to the



church but it was redistributed among the wealthy elite. Now a powerful landowners' association, with army support, has prevented any attempt at land reform.

In 1954 elected President Jacobo Arbenz was overthrown by a military coup supported by the United States after he expropriated land belonging to the United Fruit Company, an event remembered vividly by Giron.

A Robin Hood is born  
"Tanks came to our door, they

were after my father. I remember some soldiers came and raped one of the women. From that moment I became a revolutionary," he said.

As a young man Giron was a follower of the American civil rights leader Reverend Martin Luther King, working in the black ghettos of Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1978 he became a priest in Colombia and subsequently was sent to work on the Guatemalan border with Mexico, often travelling days by mule to visit

far-flung mountain villages. It was here that he began to organise, eventually starting up a peasant bank before being forced in 1981 to leave the country by pressure from landowners.

He was sent to Rome to study Christian morals, and then to Oakland, California, where he was a junior parish priest for three years until he returned to Guatemala in 1986.

Vinicio Cerezo's election as president in November 1985, after more than 30 years of military rule, at first proved a turning point for Giron's peasant crusade.

In May 1986 he led 45,000 peasants on a four-day march to the capital, which led to his being allocated 12,500 acres of land around Nueva Concepcion.

Two of the lots, Malaga and Monte Llano, he is paying for over 20 years, while a third, San Jose, he bought with his own savings from Oakland.

A fourth farm was bought with a \$30,000 donation from Catholic priests in Graz, Austria. Each farm is autonomous and sets its own prices. They grow corn, sesame, papaya, peanuts and watermelons, and raise cattle, pigs, rabbits and poultry.

## Education is the key

There is a primary school, as well as basic medical assistance, and peasants receive instruction in theology, anthropology, sociology and political awareness.

Giron is now looking for \$250,000 in donations from the United States, but is finding the going tough.

"Only today I got news that some of our people were pushed off their land in San Jose. Two months ago one of our farm administrators was killed," he said.

Giron has few illusions as to his fate should Guatemala's fragile Democracy succumb to the military.

"If Cerezo had fallen a few days ago, the first one they would have picked up would have been Father Giron," he said.

On May 9 Cerezo foiled a coup attempt by disgruntled officers, the second in 12 months. After last year's attempt, Giron says all links with the government have ceased and he has had to tone down his activities.

He is convinced the fall of Cerezo's embattled government would spell disaster for his peasant movement.

"If there is another coup we will have just two alternatives — leave the country or take up arms," he said.

While sympathising with left-wing guerrillas, who have waged a 20-year war with the army that has left up to 150,000 dead, he rejects violence.

Born in the mountainous province of El Quiche, to the west of the capital, Giron knows the ways of the guerrillas. Until a fierce army offensive in 1981 they were active in the province but now number no more than 1,000.

More than 100,000 Indian peasants fled to Mexico during the offensive. Since then the army has sought to root out guerrilla support by setting up model villages and self-defence patrols which Giron says number 700,000 peasants.

He claims those that refuse to join are threatened.

A report to the U.N. Human Rights Commission in February said there were 60 summary executions between March and December 1988, down from 420 in 1987, but human rights abuses, specially against peasants, are still frequent, according to the U.S.-based Americas Watch Human Rights Group.

Giron refuses to give up but recognises there is not much he can do to win justice for Guatemala's peasants without courting violence.

"We will keep up the pressure, but it's very difficult to occupy land without arms," he said.



# Abortion — a matter of time and place

By Mary Beth Sheridan  
The Associated Press

**ROME** — The United States and Europe are both embroiled in battles over abortion, with key decisions in some nations likely before the end of the summer.

The U.S. supreme court is expected to rule shortly on whether abortion on demand should be a constitutional right. In Western Europe, church-backed groups are fighting to limit laws that have made abortion widely available. The Belgian parliament is coming to the end of a heated debate over abortion, and Poland's parliament is considering calls to make abortion a crime.

The issue has touched off street demonstrations in Italy, threatened the stability of the government in Belgium and prompted a debate in West Germany, where authorities have cracked down on violators of the abortion law.

Yet in many other parts of the world, abortion is barely an issue at all. In some countries, abortion is widely accepted as a form of birth control. In others, abortion has long been banned and no change in the law is likely.

In the Soviet bloc and China, for example, abortion has reached high levels — one for every two live births in China — but it is widely accepted as a means to prevent unwanted babies. Even in overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Poland, the practice is widespread.

Between 40 and 60 million abortions are performed worldwide each year, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute of New York, a private research group that studies reproductive issues. The reason for the wide range is that many abortions — both legal and illegal — are not recorded, the institute said.

The Catholic church has been the principal force worldwide campaigning against abortion.

"The protection and defense of the human person — every person and the whole person, especially those who are vulnerable and most helpless: this is a task which the Catholic church, in the name of Christ, cannot and will not forsake," Pope John Paul II said recently, reaffirming the church's ban on abortion.

In the United States, church-backed groups have played a key role in a vocal and sometimes violent campaign against a 1973 supreme court decision that made abortion a constitutional right. The supreme court is reconsidering that decision, known as Roe V. Wade, and is expected to rule by late June.

## Western Europe

Abortion became legal in many Western European countries in the 1970s and early 1980s. But, as in the United States, legalisation has not eased the debate over whether it is moral.

In Italy, hundreds of thousands of protesters thronged the streets of the capital this spring in the biggest pro- and anti-abortion demonstrations since 1981, when,

Italians voted in a referendum to permit abortion on demand in the first three months of pregnancy.

Health Minister Carlo Donat Cattin, a Christian Democrat, has joined religious groups and conservatives in calling for limits on the 1978 law. Pro-abortion demonstrators have counterattacked, protesting existing restrictions in the law they blame for a growing number of "back alley" abortions.

In Belgium, a 16-year battle to legalise abortion scored its first victory in May when two senate committees voted to allow abortion in cases of psychological or economic "distress."

But the measure is fiercely opposed by the dominant Christian Democrats, a Catholic-inspired party. The issue could bring down the coalition government.

In Western Europe, as in the United States, restrictions on abortion have not prevented women from getting them elsewhere.

For example, many Belgians travel to the Netherlands, where abortion laws are more liberal. Dutch hospitals performed 36,455 abortions in 1986, two-thirds for foreigners.

And in Britain, doctors performed 3,673 abortions in 1987 for women from the Irish republic, where the operation is illegal.

The abortion issue returned to the front pages in West Germany in May, when a Bavarian court convicted Dr. Horst Theissen of performing abortions without proof that the women had been counselled by at least two doctors, as required by law.

Bavaria state, which is 70 per cent Catholic, also indicted 156 of Theissen's patients on charges of getting abortions without the required counselling. Most were fined. The cases prompted rallies by pro-abortion groups and criticism from the country's main opposition party, the Social Democrats.

## Eastern Europe

Abortion is a common means of birth control in the Soviet bloc. Even in Poland, where more than 90 per cent of the population consider themselves Catholic, an estimated one in two pregnancies is terminated by abortion — one of the highest rates in the world.

A severe housing shortage and erratic supplies of contraceptives contribute to the rate.

Poland's parliament is now considering legislation backed by the Catholic church to make abortion a crime. Both pro- and anti-abortion groups have held demonstrations.

In the Soviet Union, women average six to nine abortions each during their child-bearing years, according to Western estimates.

The country's top-ranking woman, candidate Politburo member Alexandra Biryukova, has complained about the high number and blamed a shortage of contraceptives.

Abortion was legalised in many East bloc countries in the 1950s,

while contraceptives were not generally available until the 1970s, said Jeremy Hamand, publications director of the London-based International Planned Parenthood Federation.

"When they did come in, there was a whole generation of women who had controlled their fertility by abortion," he said.

## Asia

Several Asian countries, including Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines, outlaw abortion. Hong Kong permits the procedure only if it is recommended by two physicians. Malaysia bans abortion, but last month its house of representatives approved an amendment to permit it cases where pregnancy could cause a woman physical or mental harm.

Abortion is widely practiced in Japan. "It was like making an appointment at the dentist," said one college student who recently underwent an abortion in Tokyo.

Japan bans birth control pills because of possible side effects. The country's main religions, Buddhism and Shintoism, do not condemn abortion, and it carries no social stigma.

The health ministry says Japan had 17.8 registered abortions for every 1,000 women aged 15-49 in 1985. However, many go unreported, doctors say.

The Guttmacher Institute said the United States had 28 terminated pregnancies for every 1,000 females aged 15-44 in 1985, the most recent year for which statistics are available.

Abortion is a main form of population control in China, where more than 10 million abortions are performed each year — about one for every two live births. While there is some individual resistance to government pressures to abort unplanned babies, there are no anti-abortion groups. The main criticism of Chinese abortions came from the U.S. administration of former president Ronald Reagan, who is personally a strong opponent of abortion.

## Latin America

In predominantly Catholic Latin America, abortion is widely illegal except in cases where the woman's life is in danger or she is a victim of rape. There has been little or no movement to expand those conditions.

However, there are many illegal abortions.

"They're extremely common and maternal mortality is extremely high as a result," said Hamand of the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

In Brazil, there are about 300,000 to 500,000 abortions per year, almost all of them illegal, according to the health ministry. In an exception to the regional practice, Cuba instituted legal abortion after the 1959 Communist revolution to cope with a population boom. It is routinely performed in government hospitals and free contraceptives are provided.

# Computer magic

**NEW YORK** — Children seldom display wild enthusiasm in a museum, yet a group of them was howling with delight recently at the IBM gallery of Science and Art in New York. Magic was in the air as images born from computers and three-dimensional laser projections reacted to their commands and voices. Computer-controlled systems let them interact with the displays so they could create their own brand of art.

Once called dumb adding machines, computers are invading the art world at such speed that it is revolutionising the whole concept of creation, whether for "pure art" or for commercial purposes.

In a well-rounded exhibit, which may travel to other countries, IBM gathered works by leading computer artists who use the machines and graphics programmes in a variety of ways to produce paintings and prints. Visitors were also treated to three-dimensional light "sculptures" (laser projections) controlled by sound; the "Upward Falling Fountain" for example seemed to defy gravity in a cascade of water and light whose flow varied endlessly as visitors would whistle or clap their hands, or just call out.

Among painters, differences in style are dictated mostly by the method the artist chooses to translate the mathematically constructed image on his computer screen into a tangible creation. Most often the image is photographed and enlarged; then it can be projected on canvas and painted over; the artist can also use a plotter — a type of printer using paints of many colours — which draws on paper or canvas the image created on the screen.

Intricate commands and graphics computer programmes often written by the artist himself allow total control of colour, light and transparency effects, depth, etc.

Until the 1980s it took a large computer-unit to obtain quality graphics; until then, the cost and the scarcity of programmes made scientists and mathematicians working in research labs the main users of computer graphics.

"It's a remarkable development that computations (for computer images) can now be made on a P580 (IBM personal computer)," noted exhibit curator Cynthia Goodman, adding that one reason for the IBM art display was to show that the average person can now use computer technology and be creative with it.

your design appear at the same time on the computer screen; it can be modified endlessly and then finally printed with a small thermal printer.

Goodman, who is also programmes director of the IBM New York gallery, is a leading expert on computer graphics. She explained: "Computers are revolutionising not only the art world but the world itself, from military strategy to the supermarket."

The impact is felt in the graphics used by magazines, in special effects used by television, film makers and advertisers, in many other businesses where computers make drawing boards obsolete, and of course in schools.

Schools of visual arts in America are scrambling to find enough teachers familiar with computer programmes. Goodman said, and most kindergartens in the U.S. have at least one computer. Art school graduates able to handle the new technology will have no trouble finding jobs, she predicts, as computer-aided design systems allow architects, interior decorators, car manufacturers, fashion houses and a host of other businesses to test many design possibilities or just personalise their product. For example, at a fashionable Italian decorator's, a client can design the material he wants to decorate his apartment, while in Japan a bicycle enthusiast can design his very own bicycle which a company then puts together for him.

## Manipulate images

Man's ability to create and manipulate lifelike synthetic images has already resulted in ethical problems, especially when photos are concerned: Scanners that feed photos into a computer's memory enable the user to alter the digitised photo so the pyramids of Cairo disappear from the skyline, for example. Then the photo is printed, and you may not always be able to tell if it is true to reality.

Once considered admissible evidence in a court of law, photographs may soon lose their value in this domain.

For a sculptor or an architect, however, this system means freedom to look on the screen at a model from any side or distance, and seeing how it fits in the surrounding area. From a computer-generated design, programmes can even calculate how much cement, steel and copper would be required to complete the work.

Are computers taking over? Are they sharing in the creative process? You may think so while watching a system Goodman included in the exhibit; operating on the principle of artificial intelligence, it can produce up to five large ink drawings per night, seemingly by itself.

(World News Link)



"Children can start with what's called the 'paint box,' also on display at the gallery: the system, includes a PC screen and in from of it a sketch pad with colour squares and special effects. Holding a sort of

pencil called a "mouse" you can draw and see your design appear at the same time on the computer screen; it can be modified endlessly and then finally printed with a small thermal printer."

<p>Cinema <b>CONCORD</b> Tel: 677420</p> <p><b>ABOUT LAST NIGHT</b></p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema <b>ALJOUH</b> Tel: 675571</p> <p><b>INNER SPACE</b></p> <p>Performance: 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema <b>PLAZA</b> Tel: 677420</p> <p><b>LIAR'S MOON</b></p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.</p>
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## GCC focuses on privatisation

## Study analyses economic situation in Arab states

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Iraq's immediate post-war reconstruction will cost \$7 billion and long-term projects may total \$30 billion, according to a study released by the Gulf National Bank.

The study in the bank's monthly report pointed out that Iraq faces problems in raising funds for repair and development of heavy industries, revival of port activities and implementing war-damaged projects.

"International companies most likely to win contracts are those who will also be able to provide financing... contractors from countries that are offering cheap government subsidised credit clearly have an advantage," the study noted.

Iraq's rebuilding will be slowed by its \$3.5 billion current account deficit and debt restructuring, the study said.

"Project expenditures will have to be financed through aid, counter trade, project related credit, barter deals or some form of off-balance-sheet financing," it added.

Local contractors and those in neighbouring Gulf states will take priority but overseas assistance will be needed to speed up activity and transfer sophisticated technology, the study showed.

Overall Gulf construction activity is showing an upward trend after a six-year decline, the study noted.

"Construction activities appear to have stabilised last year and 1989-1990 promise to be hopeful years," it said.

At their 1982 peak, construction activities totalled \$37.5 billion, but dropped to \$5.4 billion in 1987 as oil prices declined.

During the mid-1970s oil boom, Gulf countries spent massively on infrastructure projects. American, British, French, West German, Italian, Japanese and South Korean construction companies were heavily involved.

The study said that emphasis has now switched to managing and maintaining infrastructure, as well as development of health and human resources, housing, industry, minerals and other natural resources.

It noted, however, that defence, housing and power and desalination projects were kept up during the decline.

Some large-scale projects are still underway, with Gulf countries planning to spend over \$5 billion on airport construction and related civil engineering projects in the next decade.

This year's Saudi budget allocated 35 billion riyals (\$9.3 billion) for health and human resources, more than 25 per cent of total spending.

That reflected the high cost of maintaining the kingdom's expensive health care facilities, schools and universities, in addition to communications, industry and petroleum operations.

The study also mentioned plans for expanding aluminium, oil and other industries in Bahrain, as well as development of Qatar's North Dome gas field, one of the world's largest, and a mini-boom in the port city of Dubai, possibly caused by the ceasefire.

"The contract market in the region is still considered quite sizeable by international standards," it said.

British contractors won Middle East contracts exceeding \$1 billion in 1988. American contracting and consulting companies won more work than in any other region, with total billings of more than \$570 million.

Average figures for 1974-79 were \$3.06 and \$7.46 billion respectively.

Meanwhile, leading Arab businessmen Tuesday focused on privatisation at a conference with 1,500 participants from the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations.

"This is the decade of privatisation. Many governments around the globe are turning over their state-owned industries to the private sector," said Abdullah Dabbagh, secretary-general of the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce, told the businessmen's conference.

The gathering of businessmen, held every two years, provides a forum where leading traders can debate and air future plans with senior government officials. The GCC groups Saudi Arabia with Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

The Jeddah-based Arab News said businessmen have proposed that several Saudi public sector companies be privatised, among them the Saudia Airline, PetroMin, the government agency for marketing petroleum products, and Saudi Telecom.

But a study by the chamber of commerce and industry of the main oil-producing Eastern Province cautioned that the government should carry out studies, train manpower and retain a large equity share in such corporations.

The Saudi government has been asking the private sector to employ more Saudi nationals. According to one study, only 19 per cent of private company employees were local personnel in 1986 and the remainder expatriates.

Ismail Abu Dawood, chairman of the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the private sector was willing to absorb the Saudi manpower but called for "full understanding and interpretation of the job requirements."

## Japan raises interest rate but dollar stays high

TOKYO (R) — Japan said Tuesday it will raise its key interest rate for the first time in more than nine years, but dealers warned it may have to act again soon if it wants to rein in the surging dollar.

"It's very hard for the dollar to go down. There is nothing to hurt it at the moment," said Takanori Makita, a currency dealer at the Nippon Credit Bank.

The dollar barely budged after news that the Bank of Japan will raise its discount rate by three quarters of a percentage point, to 3.25 per cent, effectively May 31.

The increase in the rate the central bank charges on loans to commercial banks was the first since March 1980.

The dollar has defied heavy selling by major nations and risen

sharply in recent weeks as high U.S. interest rates have encouraged investors worldwide to put money into the United States.

The currency is trading at around its highest level in more than 18 months against the Japanese yen and in 2 1/2 years against the Deutschmarks.

The currency's resilience has prompted speculation that other central banks will follow Japan's move with interest rate actions of their own to stabilise exchange rates.

Some dealers said they expect the West German Bundesbank to raise rates and the U.S. Federal Reserve to ease credit this week in a coordinated effort to curb the dollar's rise.

Major nations have expressed concern that stronger dollar will

block efforts to put world trade back in better balance by making U.S. exports less competitive on world markets.

But Japanese policymakers seemed to downplay speculation of coordinated interest rate action by major nations.

Finance Minister Tatsuo Murayama said he does not expect the Japanese move to trigger interest rate increases abroad. And Bank of Japan Governor Satoshi Sumita added that he expects the Federal Reserve to take a cautious stance.

The stronger dollar and rising oil prices have pushed up inflation in Japan and helped convince the central bank that a rate increase was needed to cool off the economy.

"It is necessary to keep a close eye on prices," Murayama said. Japanese policymakers also sought to assure the country's trading partners that the rate increase did not mean Tokyo was going back on its promise on strong economic growth.

"The Japanese economy has the ability to achieve continued

sustained growth," Sumita said. But a top Japanese businessman criticised the bank for being too timid.

"The rate increase was... rather late considering... the weakness of the yen," said Takashi Ishihara, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives.

Toshiaki Kakimoto, chief economist at Sumitomo Bank, said the discount rate increase was not aimed at averting inflation but with coping with a weak Japanese yen.

## Venezuela amends trade policy

CARACAS (R) — President Carlos Andres Perez announced a new trade policy Monday night that cuts tariffs dramatically in an effort to slash inflation and to make Venezuelan industry more competitive.

"Inefficient companies, oligopolies and the privileged cannot go on being financed by 18 million Venezuelans," Perez said in a televised address.

The measures, part of the government's austerity programme, include reducing tariffs next month to a maximum of 80 per cent for consumer goods and 50 per cent for raw materials, goods used in production processes and capital.

The cut in tariffs, which currently range up to several hundred per cent, is likely to increase foreign exports to Venezuela, economic analysts said.

Perez said the government aimed to reduce the maximum

tariff on all goods to 20 per cent in March, 1993.

Companies will have to raise efficiency and product quality to survive and may no longer depend on receiving stage subsidies that led to the creation of monopolies, he said.

Ernesto Navarro, president of Conindustria, a national federation of Venezuelan industrialists, has said the car assembly, engineering, chemical and textile sectors would suffer the impact of the measures first.

"We must reeducate ourselves as industrialists and direct ourselves to other (business) areas," Navarro said.

Perez said the government would apply an 80 per cent tariff to car assembly and would allow the import of new cars of the type that were assembled in Venezuela.

He said his new policy would take effect gradually to reduce its impact on businesses that were already making sacrifices under the government's austerity programme.

He rejected suggestions that the measures would create unemployment as inefficient companies went out of business, saying they should boost investment prospects and jobs.

## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

## Jordanian fair in Tunis succeeds

TUNIS (J.T.) — Record sales have been reported from the fourth Jordanian industrial fair which opened in Tunis last Thursday, according to the fair's organisers. National manufactured products worth \$1.5 million were bought in the first five days of the fair which can sell directly to the public and various Tunisian organisations for up to \$2.5 million worth of products. More than 80 specialised Jordanian firms are taking part in the fair displaying and selling products ranging from engineering and constructional commodities to pharmaceuticals and foodstuffs and carpets, the organisers reported. Jordan and Tunisia are linked by a 1987 trade and economic agreement which provides for the sale of \$30 million worth of products annually to be divided equally between the two sides.

## Soviet bank gets Cyprus licence

NICOSIA (R) — The Soviet Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs is to open a branch in Cyprus, becoming the first Soviet bank to have a presence in the country, a central bank spokesman has said. The government granted an offshore banking licence Monday to the bank, which will be involved in trade financing, the spokesman said.

## Interflug to fly to Bangkok in July

EAST BERLIN (R) — The East German state airline Interflug will start flights July 1 to Bangkok via Dubai and Singapore using its newly acquired Airbus A310 passenger jets, the Berliner Zeitung newspaper has reported. East Germany agreed 11 months ago to lease three Airbus airlines made by a consortium of French, West German, British and Spanish companies.

## Kuwait buys Yugoslav arms

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's Defence Minister Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah Monday signed a contract with the Yugoslav government for "sophisticated military equipment" for the Gulf state's armed force, an official statement said. The statement issued by the ministry did not specify the type of arms covered by the deal, believed to be the first to be signed with Belgrade. Nor did it give the value. Kuwait has fostered political and economic ties with the Eastern Bloc since it gained independence in 1961.

## El Al reports \$18.8m net profit

TEL AVIV (AP) — El Al, Israel's airline, has announced that its net profit rose in 1988 despite a sharp drop in tourism because of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. Rafael Harlev, president of the national carrier, told a news conference that because of the company's improving performance, talks were opened with the ministries of finance and transport aimed at ending six years of government receivership and returning control to El Al's board of directors.

## Iran, Tanzania to expand relations

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran and Tanzania have agreed to start direct flights between Tehran and Dar Es Salaam, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) has reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the agreement followed a meeting between visiting Tanzanian minister of economic collaboration, Ameneh Salom Ali, and Iran's acting minister of commerce Mojtaba Khosrow-Taj.

## African Development Bank celebrates silver jubilee

ABUJA, Nigeria (R) — Africa's leading financing institution celebrated its 25th anniversary Monday, happy with its development efforts but haunted by the nightmare of the continent's \$230 billion debt.

The African Development Bank (ADB) warmed up for its annual meeting with a series of speeches congratulating the bank for its successes, but making it clear that much remained to be done to alleviate the debt burden.

Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida paid tribute to the founding fathers of the Abidjan-based ADB, which held its first meeting in Lagos in 1964.

"There can no longer be any doubt about its relevance and survival," he told more than 1,000 delegates and told more sporting green and white rosettes.

"The ADB has indeed come of age, but still has a long way to go," he added.

Babangida, whose country has been hit periodically by protests against harsh economic reforms, said this week's meeting afforded an opportunity for stock-taking.

"Despite the achievements of the ADB over the last 25 years... Africa remains the poorest conti-



Ibrahim Babangida

nent," he noted. He called for understanding by foreign creditors on debt reduction and the need for lower interest rates.

"Recent proposals have recognised the need for debt reduction... this is a welcome development," he said.

Organisation of African Unity Chairman Moussa Traore told the meeting the international economy remains unfavourable for African countries suffering from low commodity export earnings and crushing foreign debts.

ADB President Babangida also stressed the pitfalls that lay ahead for the bank and the continent.

"The road ahead is difficult and challenging," Ndiaye said. The ADB meeting takes place at a time of new initiatives to tackle the Third World debt problem.

French President Francois Mitterrand said last week that Paris would cancel official debt owed to it by 35 of the world's poorest countries.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady in March outlined a new initiative to reduce Third World debt. It is intended to help about 40 middle-income countries.

The Brady plan envisages a 20-per cent debt reduction over the next three years through buying back debt discounted at between 30 and 60 per cent against guaranteed security.

"The results of debt reduction so far have been rather minimal," Babangida said.

"Unless a solution is found to the debt problem, development and economic growth will continue to be very difficult," he concluded.

## Nestle clears fund raising plans

ZURICH (R) — Swiss food giant Nestle said Monday that a planned capital increase to raise nearly 800 million Swiss francs (\$460 million) would go ahead after all.

Last Friday Nestle issued a statement saying "changes in (company) bylaws and the equity increases," which had been approved by the shareholders' annual meeting, were blocked because of action taken by a tiny group of dissenting shareholders.

But the company said Monday that the capital increase was in two stages — and the dissenting group, known as Canes, had now made clear it was not opposed to the first stage, a rights issue of new shares to existing shareholders.

"The new shares resulting from it will be offered to shareholders in the next few days as decided by the general meeting," spokesman Francois-Xavier Perroud said from Nestle's headquarters in Vevey.

Canes said in a separate statement it was objecting only to the second stage of the capital increase, which involved creating shares for the management to hold in reserve and issue when it saw fit.

Perroud said the confusion had arisen because it was legally questionable whether the two stages of the capital increase could be separated.

Canes, which represents 202 shareholders and 0.2 per cent of Nestle's capital, attacked the creation of reserve shares, saying

they could undermine shareholders' rights. It said it was not clear when or why the management would issue these shares.

The Lausanne-based group presented its objections to the Vevey registrar of companies last Thursday at the start of the company's annual shareholders' meeting.

While the 2,668 shareholders voted overwhelmingly in favour of the board's proposals, the registrar agreed to freeze a number of the decisions and give Canes time to go to a district court for a ruling on their objections.

Changes in the company's statutes only have legal power if they are lodged with the registrar.

Canes succeeded in having the registrar block both the reserve shares and proposed amendments to the company's articles of association which it said would diminish shareholders' rights and give the board too much power.

The Nestle statement said all

necessary measures were being taken to ensure the will of the majority of its shareholders was respected and that the objections were lifted.

Legal sources said proceedings could take months. Whoever lost at the district court hearing could appeal to higher courts.

A possible solution would be for both parties to agree to bypass the lower courts and go direct to the Swiss Supreme Court for a ruling, they said.

Nestle's Perroud said such a procedure could be attractive. "There is no sense in having these things drawn out in the long term. But I am not aware of any decision at this stage," he added.

Nestle, which last year acquired British confectionery group Rowntree and Italian food concern Buitoni, is Switzerland's biggest company and lifted its profit by more than 11 per cent in 1988 to 2.04 billion Swiss francs (\$1.17 billion).

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, May 30, 1989 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	78.9 79.8
Pound Sterling	842.0	851.2	376.4 380.4
Deutschmark	287.3	270.1	237.2 239.5
Swiss franc	305.5	309.4	1452/1453 79.7 80.4
			Italian lire (for 100) 37.4 37.4
			Belgian franc (for 10) 127.6 128.9

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.5660/70	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2070/80	Canadian dollar
	2.0083/90	Deutschmarks
	2.2647/57	Dutch guilders
	1.7565/75	Swiss francs
	42.04/07	Belgian francs
	6.8030/80	French francs
	1452/1453	Italian lire
	143.15/25	Japanese yen
	6.7380/430	Swedish crowns
	7.2260/310	Norwegian crowns
	7.8210/60	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	362.35/362.75	U.S. dollars

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The All Ordinaries index gained 5.9 points to 1,541.8 on a weaker Australian dollar.

TOKYO — Most investors stayed on the sidelines, concerned that the dollar may resume its climb against the yen. The 225-share Nikkei index lost 83.94 points to 34,076.89. After the market closed, the Bank of Japan raised its key interest rate for the first time in nine years from 2.5 to 3.25 per cent.

HONG KONG — Share prices ended lower on profit-taking mixed with rumours of plans by the Chinese government to use military force in Peking. The Hang Seng index ended 39.55 points lower at 2,805.46.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed generally firmer on some short-covering and bargain-hunting in moderate trading after recent falls. The Straits Times industrial index climbed 12.68 points to close at 1,278.16 points.

BOMBAY — Share prices closed low in poor trading after a sharp fall Monday on reports that India was heading into a debt trap, brokers said.

FRANKFURT — The DAX index gained 1.3 per cent or 17.60 points to close at 1,403.17 as the weak mark brought in foreign cash.

ZURICH — Prices closed firmer as buyers returned to the market to offset recent losses. The all-share Swiss index rose 8.9 to 1,005.5.

PARIS — Prices were easier in tight trading ahead of Wednesday's French April trade figures. The 50-share bourse indicator was down 0.31 per cent.

LONDON — Prices were easier in a market still nervous over sterling's weakness against the dollar and indications of a slowdown in British economic activity. At 1448 GMT, the FTSE 100-index was down 6.9 at 2,133.4.

NEW YORK — The market was mixed with futures-related buying alternating with futures-related selling. The Dow was off a fraction.

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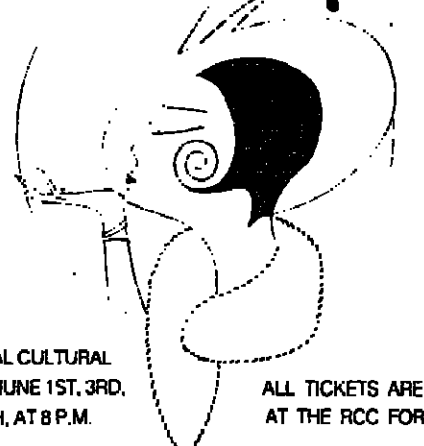
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PSD officers greet Prince Hassan during His Highness' visit to a PSD brigade Tuesday

## Prince Hassan briefs security officers on economic situation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday visited a Public Security Department (PSD) brigade and was briefed on the brigade's training programmes.

In a brief speech to the brigade Prince Hassan outlined the regional and international economic situation and its adverse effects on the Middle East

region as a whole.

He underlined the importance of self-reliance and dependence on national potentials for development in the present stage.

PSD Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali made a speech outlining the brigade's various duties. Major General Salman Al Ma'aita also briefed the Prince on the training programmes.

## ARA cleans Red Sea coast reefs

AQABA (Petra, J.T.) — The Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) has embarked on an organisational plan for the southern coast of the port city designed to provide protection for marine life and coastal environment and protection for the coral reefs within the Aqaba zone.

The announcement was made by ARA President Bassam Qaqish who said that the project entails setting up three marine reserves in cooperation with the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature. Qaqish announced also that a centre for monitoring the environment and water pollution will be set up in cooperation with the Ministry of

Planning and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

He said that ARA is now involved in dredging the sea bottom in the gulf close to Aqaba port to clear the way for under water photographers and divers. The process he said is being conducted in cooperation with civil defence authorities and the Marine Science Station.

Last February, Qaqish announced the start of the removal of shacks and dilapidated buildings located along the northern coast of Aqaba because he said they distorted the city's general appearance and obstructed vacationers from benefiting from the beaches.

## Independence Day celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — As part of Greater Amman Municipality's celebrations of Independence Day, Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh Tuesday opened Ja'afar Al Tayyar garden, set at Tafelbeh quarter in Al Nasr area on a 4-dunum plot of land. A number of olive trees

were planted in the garden Tuesday during a major celebration in which scouts took part. Rawabdeh Wednesday opens other new gardens at Yadoudah, Jawa and Khreibet Al Souq.

On the occasion, the municipality held a photographic exhibition at Salt Cultural Centre.

## Jordan, Soviet Union review joint cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Soviet joint economic and trade committee will convene in Moscow in July to study and follow up matters related to promoting bilateral trade, according to an announcement here following the signing of the minutes of joint meetings grouping Jordanian and Soviet teams.

The announcement said that the two sides reviewed bilateral trade and discussed Soviet technical training to Jordanians and also looked into a joint venture which will be set up in the Kingdom to produce phosphoric acid, employing primary materials produced in Jordan and the re-open-

ing of the Jordan timber factory in Aqaba with Soviet help.

The two sides discussed the prospect of opening Jordanian and Soviet trade centres and exhibitions in Moscow and Amman to promote the exchange of national products and reached tentative agreement on promoting tourism with the Soviet Union by organising Soviet group visits to Jordan.

Also Monday a visiting team from the Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society signed an agreement here to promote cultural activities and to help Jordanian students acquire education in the Soviet Union.

## Soviet military chief leaves

AMMAN (J.T.) — Soviet Chief of Staff for Land Forces and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet land forces Demetri Alexandrovich and the accompanying delegation left Amman Tuesday at the end of a several-day visit to Jordan during which they met with a number of senior Jordanian officials and visited military and archaeological sites in Jordan.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An archaeological exhibition entitled "The Treasures of Hasma Desert" at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ A photography exhibition by Sigrid Neubert on "the Goethe Forest" (near Dana Village between Tafila and Shobak) at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition by French artist "Olivier Mutilled" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of documents and photos depicting Jordan's history and development under His Majesty King Hussein's rule, at the Maftaq Youth Centre.
- ★ A photography exhibition by Haitham Juweinat entitled "Amman Under King Hussein's Reign" at the Salt Municipality Library.
- ★ An exhibition of cartoons entitled "40 Years Federal Republic of Germany" at the Goethe Institute.

### FILM

- ★ A feature film entitled "The French Lieutenant's Woman" at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

## Princess Basma urges early development of children's skills

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF) said Tuesday that effective education in the early childhood should focus on the children's areas of interest and should be targeted at enabling the child to discover his physical and emotional potentials. Addressing a three day symposium on drama in education, organised by QAJSWF in cooperation with the Arab Council for Childhood and Development's (ACCD) Research Centre.

Princess Basma highlighted the importance of drama in teaching small children with the ultimate goal of developing the educational process. "The use of drama in children's education enables them to identify patterns of conduct and serves as a mirror enabling the child to see himself and to discover the community's attitude towards him and its interaction with him in light of that conduct," the princess noted.

She pointed out that QAJSWF directs special attention to child issues because more than half of Jordan's population are below 15. Princess Basma thanked all participants and researchers for their contribution to the symposium, and voiced hope that the symposium would come up with practical results highlighting the importance of drama.

Education Minister Abdullah Nsour, who attended the symposium, stressed that the educational development process requires that a better educational quality and that students performance be improved, through improving the educational methods and innovating more effective methods, such as the use of drama in education.

This method, Nsour noted, develops children's imagination, enhances self-confidence and group work and strengthens the students' ability to take decisions. It also contributes to discovering students' talents. The minister voiced his ministry's resolve to apply this method of education at a large scale after studying the initial experience and assessing its results.

Also addressing the symposium was director of the ACCD's research centre Ahmad Malkawi, who outlined the importance of the symposium and explained its objectives. Malkawi said that the symposium aims at defining the social and psychological dimensions of drama and highlighting its importance as a means for developing the educational process.

Taking part in the symposium are a number of educational institutions in Jordan in addition to representatives from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).



Minister of Education Abdullah Nsour Tuesday addresses a symposium on drama in education that was early addressed by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

## Japanese industrialists consider developing Jordan's fertilizer industry

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team of Japanese industrialists and businessmen representing a group of major Japanese firms specialising in fertilizers held talks here Tuesday and expressed readiness to help promote Jordan's endeavours to develop its fertilizers industry.

The team met with Arab Potash Company (APC) Director General Ali Nsour to review prospects of cooperation in the fertilizers industry, and were briefed on Jordan's phosphate and potash potentials, basic elements for fertilizers.

Nsour briefed the visitors on Jordan's achievements in the exploitation of mineral resources in general and potash from the Dead Sea in particular.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra Japan imports some 50,000 tonnes of Jordanian potash annually and the amount

is expected to increase gradually over the coming years.

Nearly 70 per cent of Jordan's potash is being marketed in Asian countries such as India, Japan, Indonesia, China, Malaysia and the Philippines as well as Australia and New Zealand, while the rest is being marketed in Europe, Brazil and South American countries, according to an earlier statement by Nsour published last December.

Nsour told the visiting Japanese team that the APC will be ready to launch a joint fertilizer project with Japanese companies employing locally produced primary materials like potash and phosphate, according to Petra. The agency said that the visitors will tour the APC plants at the southern tip of the Dead Sea near Ghor Al Safi and will visit the APC export area at Aqaba to study the production and exporting operations.

## Qatarneh urges dialogue

MAAN (Petra) — Maan Governor Eid Qatarneh Tuesday stressed the importance of dialogue between officials and citizens and called for the opening of communication channels through which constructive ideas will be discussed.

Qatarneh was speaking at a meeting held at the governorate and attended by citizens from all walks of life.



Air France's airbus under maintenance at RJ maintenance workshop at Queen Alia Airport

## RJ maintains Air France's Airbus

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline is currently carrying out maintenance on a A-310 Airbus plane owned and operated by Air France under a contract signed by the two airlines, according to an announcement by RJ Tuesday.

Air France had agreed with RJ that the latter conduct maintenance on four of its aircraft at its workshop near the Queen Alia International Airport, a process which will be repeated every 15 months. The week long maintenance session is comprehensive and covers all sections of the fuselage, navigational system, electric system, communications

system and other areas, the announcement added. Air France had earlier drawn up an agreement with RJ for the latter to carry out maintenance on aircraft engines fitted in the Airbus planes owned and operated by Air France.

RJ owns five Airbus planes which are currently employed on Middle East and North Africa routes. The Airbus planes replaced the ageing Boeing 707s which the RJ operated in the past decade. RJ owns and operates a modern workshop equipped with all the necessary materials which are employed to provide maintenance

to RJ planes and other airlines. RJ also owns two Airbus simulators from the French Thomson CSF company which manufactures the Airbus planes. RJ chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour said upon the purchase of the Airbus planes that the national airline was making ready for the 1990s with modern planes and a greater measure of safety.

According to the RJ spokesman, an aircraft from the Syrian Airways is expected to undergo a comprehensive maintenance session at the RJ workshops later this year.



Doctors, nurses and medical personnel attending Jordan's first nursing conference at Al Hussein Medical Centre in Amman

## First nursing conference

## 300 nurses discuss profession

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 300 male and female nurses from Jordan's hospitals gathered at the King Hussein Medical Centre Tuesday for the first Jordanian nursing conference.

The organisers said that 13 working papers will be reviewed by the participants dealing with factors that help promote the work of nurses, occupational hazards which nurses face in the course of their work, training programmes for nurses, incentives for promoting their performance and nurse-patient relationship, among other relevant topics.

The participants from government, military and private sector's hospitals in the Kingdom will hear lectures and inspect an exhibition displaying various types of medicines and medical appliances and equipment which

was opened on the sidelines of the conference.

Dr. Rizk Al Rashdan, deputy director of the National Medical Institution (NMI) addressed the participants, pointing out the main areas in the nursing profession where Jordan has made good progress, and said that the health authorities are keen on honouring nurses and the nursing profession and highlighting the nurses' role in serving their community.

Rashdan noted that to increase the number of nurses, two nursing training colleges have been recently opened at the University of Jordan and the Jordan University of Science and Technology to serve side by side the four other colleges that exist in the country and help the Kingdom attain self sufficiency in nurses. A survey conducted last month

revealed that Jordan now has a total of 2,210 female nurses of whom 574 are non-Jordanians. It said that the Kingdom will need 4,000 nurses by the end of the century in the light of growing demand on health services and owing to the growing number of health centres and hospitals.

The figures were released by Health Minister Zuhair Malhas who said that the ministry plans to recruit and train the required number of nurses through its nursing institutes.

Last November a training institute to turn out much needed nurse tutors and instructors was inaugurated in Jordan. It is temporarily housed at Al Bashir government hospital in Amman, but will be moved to Zarqa once the construction work on the premises has been completed.

## U.N. helps in civil service reform

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two United Nations appointed experts in public administration and civil service will help the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) carry out a comprehensive programme to overhaul the national civil service system, a project which will be totally covered through a grant from the United Nations Development Programme, according to the CSC.

The commission's assistant director general Khaled Radaideh said that the two experts, Dr. Abdullah Zoubi from

Jordan and Dr. Omar Mousa from Egypt, will present a formula for reforming the national civil service system which will complement the work of a Royal Commission that was entrusted to conduct a similar task.

The new project, Radaideh noted, aims to promote and develop the existing system to attain the maximum efficiency and performance. The two experts will help re-organise job descriptions, introduce new techniques and methods in public administration work, and pave the ground for training personnel, Radaideh pointed out.

He said that the two experts will conduct field studies on different departments in the course of implementing their task. Earlier this month the Institute of Public Administration Director Abdullah Ulayyan said that the project for overhauling the civil service system in the country will begin by September 1989. He said that the project would cost nearly \$3 million and that final arrangements are being made for the start of the project.

He also said that nearly 45 Jordanian experts in public administration matters will help carry out the project in two years' time.

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جورن تيمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Editorial Director:

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Jordan Press Foundation.

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

## Unscrambling our priorities

IT was more than just refreshing to see and hear Jordan's highest leaders discussing the information system in the country and emphasising the need to bring about an overall change in presenting facts and issues to the reader-on-the-street. The very fact that His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan took the trouble to spend hours in an informal meeting with representatives of Jordanian newspapers as well as the state-run news agency and television and radio is an unmistakable pointer to the seriousness with which the leadership intends to clear air of the remnants of, well, let's say it, misguided information policies and scrambled priorities and hopefully herald a new era in the Jordanian press and official media.

It is no secret that the trend of reporting in the Jordanian media left a lot to be desired in the way of objectivity and presentation. More often than not, for assumed reasons based on unclear guidelines, the focus had been on personalities rather than events, as the King himself pointed out Tuesday. Coupled with the trend was a confused list of priorities, which, no doubt, frustrated many a reader as well as many a journalist. At the same time, judging from comments made by some journalists at Tuesday's gathering, it appears that it will be some time before some segments in the profession will actually grasp and absorb the significance of the message inherent in the frank and free exchange of views that took place. But then, old habits die hard and journalism is no exception either.

Mutual confidence between the government and the governed is the key to a citizen identifying himself or herself with the country. The media have the lion's share of responsibility in the process since accurate, unambiguous and objective information helps build that confidence and reinforces the sense of belonging and desire to be part of the nation-building process. In this way common challenges can be confronted with a united stand. "Restricted" reporting on issues of vital importance to political and economic developments in the country and region inevitably pushes the listener or reader to seek alternative sources, which are not necessarily accurate, do not present the national perspective on the event or issue at stake, and only serve to create alienation.

There is no escaping from the fact that there are indeed a multitude of domestic social and cultural issues which, for some obscure reason, have been left unaddressed — perhaps apathy on the part of the press itself since the subjects are not exactly headline catching or unfounded apprehension based on what is labelled as "sensitivity." It needs no imagination to realise that these issues, if addressed by the press in the right context and with objectivity, could be solved.

It is true in any Third World country that it is not a question of what the media present, but of how it is presented. Bad news cannot be just waved away with shrouded reporting. The meeting at the royal palace here on Tuesday was precisely the kind of morale-boosting exercise that was needed — it has injected a new sense of purpose to our media.

We are on the threshold of a new chapter in our information system. Let us slam the door on the past forever. Let us not misuse the opportunity at hand to restore our pride and credibility as responsible and trustworthy media which seek to serve the national cause by fairness and professionalism.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Tuesday described the new measures by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) as reflecting a bold and candid administration capable of revealing the truth to the public and re-establishing stability in the money market. The paper said that Dr. Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi was careful to present the facts to the public and to seek the Jordanian people's support and cooperation so that economic adaptation programme can achieve success. The paper lauded Nabulsi's decision to bring about a reduction in the rate of interest charged by the Housing Bank on housing loans to limited-income groups and said this was one of the fruits of the new administration at the Central Bank which has committed itself to working towards reactivating the national economy. It said more than 26,000 people will benefit from this small step alone, but more thousands and the whole country will benefit once the new measures had been implemented. The paper paid tribute to the CBJ for giving priority to specific groups like students and importers of basic commodities in providing sufficient foreign currency, and said that the measures are bound to re-establish confidence in the national currency.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily calls on the government to open the door for as many students as possible to enrol at Jordanian universities. Rakan Al Majali, who is also the paper's editor, says that this step would no doubt save the country a great deal of hard currency spent otherwise on the education of Jordanians abroad, and would give hope to more numbers of school graduates in acquiring higher education. The writer says that the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) is to be commended for its current measures to provide badly needed foreign currency to finance these students' education but it should be noted that more money going out of the country means a drain on Jordanian financial resources. The writer also notes that parents of children studying abroad will find it hard from now on to gather sufficient amounts of foreign currency to send abroad in view of the soaring rates of foreign exchange against the Jordanian dinar.

Al Dstour daily described the new measures announced by the Central Bank as extremely important, coming in the course of the country's struggle to regain economic, monetary and financial stability. The paper said that linking the Jordanian dinar with a basket of currencies is bound to boost the dinar and help to re-establish confidence in the national currency. As the bank's governor said, the most important thing at the moment is to re-build confidence in Jordan's currency so that the expatriate transfers will resume, the paper noted. It said that once this is achieved the Central Bank will be in a better position to intervene in the local money market and prevent any destabilisation of the Jordanian dinar.

By Pascal B. Karmy  
Special to the Jordan Times

SINCE the acceptance by Iran of Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987 one year after its issue, in August 1988, there has been a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq but not peace. Negotiations for a final peace settlement between them have so far failed to achieve anything notwithstanding the energetic efforts of the secretary-general of the United Nations and his delegate Mr. Eliason. One of the chief obstacles in the way of a peaceful settlement is the conflict on the Shatt Al Arab waterway. Iran claims that its fluvial border stretches to half of the waterway while Iraq contends that the whole waterway should be under its sovereignty. Let us examine rather cursorily the geographical, historical and legal aspects of this problem.

### Geographical aspect

Shatt Al Arab is formed of the delta on the Arab Gulf by the two rivers the Tigris and the Euphrates. It is situated 75 kilometres north of Basra and extends to 218 kilometres between Al Korna and the Gulf. Its width ranges between 350 to 122 metres. It is fed by water from many sources such as from Huwayse near Al Korna and Al Karoun river. Shatt Al Arab is a vital zone to Iraq as it constitutes its only maritime exit to the south. It is the waterway which links Iraq to the Gulf as Iraq is landlocked in all other borders. Therefore any foreign power which occupies this waterway isolates Iraq and deprives it of its natural access to the Gulf. It is further more of vital importance for the economy of Iraq as it makes it possible for merchant ships to reach Basra.

### History of the waterway

It is not necessary here to go back to the ancient history of

Shatt Al Arab. Suffice it for our purpose to start from 1847, the date on which the Treaty of Ardroum II was concluded on May 31 of that year between the Ottoman Empire (which then ruled Iraq) and Persia as present Iran was then called. This treaty provided, among other matters, that the boundaries of the Ottoman Empire and Persia shall be fixed on the east bank of Shatt Al Arab. Thus the Ottoman Empire exercised full sovereignty on the whole waterway. However, the treaty did not derogate from the right of Persia to navigate its ships freely in Shatt Al Arab. But the dispute did not end there.

Through the intervention of Russia and Great Britain, the Protocol of Constantinople of Nov. 17, 1913 was concluded between the Ottoman Empire and Persia. This protocol enabled the Ottoman Empire to keep control of the waterway but gave Persia the eastern bank of the Shatt while Khodr island and its port near Abadan came under Persian sovereignty. This situation was inherited by Iraq following its independence in 1932. Subsequently Iraq declared that it was not bound by the previous treaties with regard to the fixing of boundaries of both countries relating to Shatt Al Arab. Consequently in 1937 a new treaty was entered into between the two states which kept Shatt Al Arab under Iraqi sovereignty. This treaty however, slightly amended the boundaries in the Shatt in favour of Iran but the latter was not satisfied with this concession, and following the establishment of the Republic in Iraq in 1958 the relations between the two countries deteriorated. Thus in 1969 Iran unilaterally declared the treaty of 1937 as null and void and claimed its right to half of the waterway. The situation on the ground did not however change until 1975 when Iraq was forced

(under pressure of certain circumstances amongst which was the Kurdish rebellion aided and armed by the Shah and the CIA) to conclude the Algiers Agreement of March 6, 1975. The agreement was reached between Mr. Saddam Hussein then vice-president of the Revolutionary Command Council on behalf of Iraq and the Shah of Iran during the OPEC meeting in Algiers. According to this agreement and the subsequent protocols it was

agreed that the two parties recognise that the international fluvial borders on Shatt Al Arab shall be fixed on the basis of the Thalweg line and that no party shall act in such a way as to obstruct navigation in the Shatt. (Thalweg line means that states separated by a border river, jurisdiction over it is usually divided between the two riparian states in the middle of the main navigable channel and each half of the river is under the exclusive control of one or the

other of the two neighbouring states). The agreement provided also that certain Iraqi territories held by Iran should be returned to Iraq, particularly Zeln Al Qaws and Seif Sa'ad. The three protocols which were concluded subsequent to the main agreement, concerned the territorial boundaries and border security. Paragraph 4 of the main agreement and article 4 of the protocol on the Borders and Good Neighbourhood of June 13, 1975 stipulate that the provisions of the agreement and of the protocols are indivisible and inseparable and therefore violation of any one of these provisions is incompatible with the spirit of the Algiers agreement.

### Cancellation of the Algiers agreement

On Sept. 17, 1980 Iraq declared the Algiers agreement as null and void on, inter alia, the following grounds:

1 - Iran has not restituted Zeln Al Qaws and Seif Sa'ad to Iraq.  
2 - Iranian leaders openly interfered with Iraqi internal affairs.  
3 - Iran supported the Kurdish Barzani against Iraq to foment a Kurdish rebellion in northern Iraq.

4 - In a nutshell, by words and deeds Iran has flouted the provisions of the Algiers agreement.

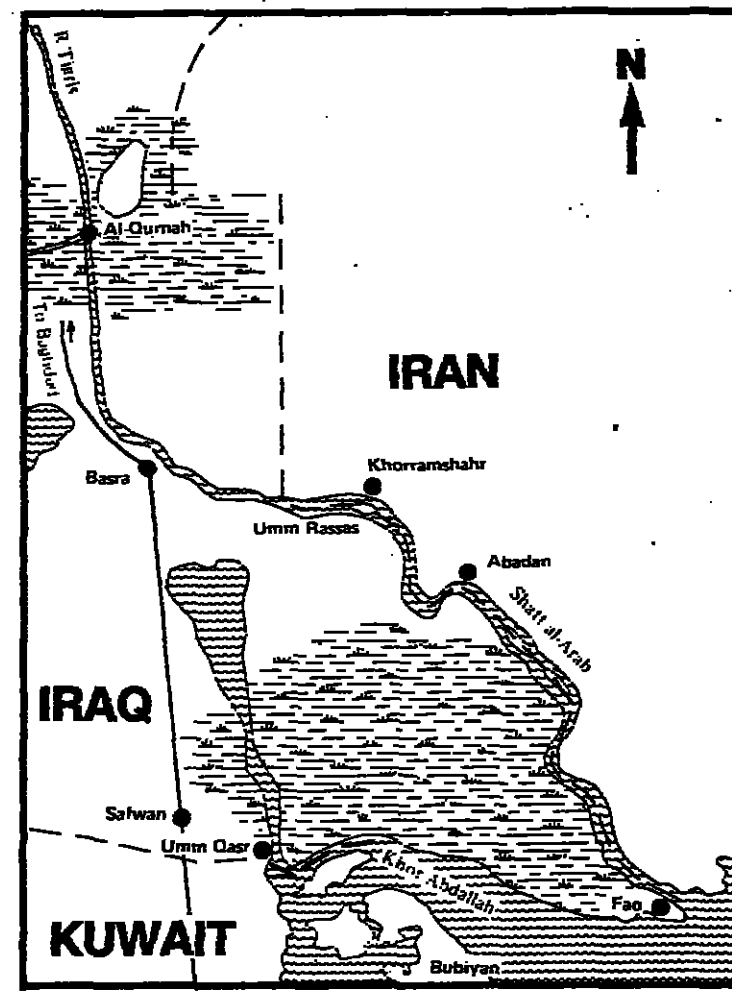
In terminating the Algiers agreement, Iraq relied strictly on its provisions and non-compliance therewith by Iran, as clearly indicated in President Saddam's speech delivered on Sept. 17, 1980 before the Iraqi national assembly. There is a recognised fundamental principle of international law known as the Pacta Sunt Servanda which enunciates that treaties are binding on the parties and must be performed in good faith. As Iran, whether under the Shah or under the Khomeini regime, did not

honour or execute the Algiers agreement as explained above, Iraq was legally justified in terminating it.

### The effects of the termination of the Algiers agreement

The main effect of the termination of the Algiers agreement was to revert both Iraq and Iran to the status quo ante-1975. Shatt Al Arab becomes, as it always was, an Iraqi national waterway under the sovereignty and control of Iraq. Iraq has the right to regulate navigation in this waterway and all ships entering it must hoist the Iraqi flag. The Iraqi authorities can publish civil and criminal laws applicable to the region. It should be pointed out that the termination of the agreement does not deny the right of Iran to use Shatt Al Arab but subject to the sovereignty and control of Iraq as was the case under Ardroum Treaty II of 1847 and of 1937 Treaty.

Presently Shatt Al Arab is blocked with ships caught there when the war broke out between Iran and Iraq in September 1980. Iran still claims that the Algiers agreement of 1975 drawing the southern border between the two countries down the middle of the waterway (Thalweg line), is still valid. Iraq rejects this claim and contends that Shatt Al Arab was always an Iraqi waterway and will not accept its division as it is the only exit to the Gulf. But Iraq, according to its spokesmen, will ensure freedom of navigation for the Iranian ships in that waterway. Iraq is ready to abide by the U.N. Security Resolution 598 of July 20, 1987 and to conclude a final peace agreement with Iran but during the negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General, Iran has been using evasive and procrastinating tactics for the purpose of obtaining certain gains or advantages.



## South Africa: Israel's friend in need

By Jane Hunter

IN 1975, President Gerald Ford suspended U.S. aid to Israel during a "reassessment" of U.S. policy in the region. Shaken by that experience and by its increasing isolation during the mid-70s, Israel turned to South Africa and established a wide-ranging relationship extending to collaboration on nuclear weapons. Fourteen years later, as the winds of doubt begin to stir the U.S. Congress and a poll shows that 52% of the U.S. public has an unfavourable opinion of Israel (only 45% disliked the USSR), will Israel again turn to the apartheid state?

Although beset by budget troubles, South Africa is a wealthy country and, while it could not replace the \$3 billion Israel receives annually from the U.S., the white regime could probably increase its ongoing investment in Israeli military research and development and in the Israeli manufacturing, tourist, real estate and sports sectors. South Africa could not deflect international political pressure from Israel as the U.S. has done, but it could send troops and equipment to Israel in an emergency. And, being even more lonesome in the world than Israel, as a friend in need, South Africa would be reliable.

The catch for Israel is that the more openly it embraces Pretoria, the shakier Israel's standing in the U.S. will become — especially among African Americans and the other progressive elements that make up the Reverend Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition. For a number of years their resentment at Israel's support of South Africa has been quietly gathering force. In a recent speech to members of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York, Desmond Tutu, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, warned that relations between Jews and blacks will be strained until Israel "categorically repudiates" its military collaboration with South Africa.

### Military collaboration continues

That collaboration, the heart of the Israeli-South African relationship, has continued, despite Israel's pledge in March 1987 that it would sign no new military contracts with the apartheid state and would let its old contracts expire. Evidence has solidified over the past year that Israel is helping South Africa build a state-of-the-art fighter aircraft based on the Lavi, the U.S. funded aircraft which Israel cancelled in August 1987, six months after it promised to sign no new military contracts with South Africa.

Within days of Lavi's cancellation South Africa began hiring Lavi technicians. Less than a year later the Johannesburg Star reported that the technicians were "believed to have played a significant

role" in the development of the Cheetah-E, an upgrade of a Mirage overhaul carried out for South Africa in 1986 by the state-owned Israeli Aircraft Industries. Soon after came reports that South Africa was developing its "own" aircraft and that Israel had received "independent financing" to continue work on the Lavi's avionics. This appeared to confirm the earlier report of *Il Giornale*, the Italian paper, that Israel and South Africa had secretly agreed to produce a South African version of the Lavi.

It had long been believed that South Africa was a silent partner in the Lavi, but where Pretoria was to get an engine for the aircraft confounded analysts for years. The Lavi was to have been powered by a U.S.-designed Pratt and Whitney engine, and Israel, which was to build the engine under a U.S. licence, would have been bound by a U.S. ban on re-export of the engine to South Africa. A solution to this problem now seems to be the French-designed SNECMA Atar 9K-50 engine, which the *Financial Times* says is being produced under an "Israeli-South African military cooperation pact." In 1967, with the help of a collaborator, Mossad obtained blueprints for the engine from the Swiss firm licensed to build Mirage aircraft. The engine already powers some of the Mirages South Africa obtained from France before the

U.N. arms embargo of 1977.

### South Africans on the West Bank

Another indication of continuing military collaboration came last September, when a number of high-ranking South African military officers were sighted near Ramallah. It is likely they were observing Israeli combat the intifada, rather than imparting advice, as some speculation had it. Since 1976 Israel has been advising South Africa's military and police in battle and counter-insurgency techniques and Israeli advisors have aided South African proxy forces, Renamo in Mozambique and UNITA in Angola.

In early 1988 Israeli advisors were reported to be helping the South African Air Force implement techniques that Israel successfully used against Syrian anti-aircraft installations in 1982. South Africa was at the time (a fully year after Israel's pledge of no new military contracts) attacking Angola in support of UNITA. The subsequent defeat of South Africa by Angolan and Cuban forces using Soviet technology against South Africa's Cheetah aircraft, its Israeli-designed drone aircraft and its Boeing 707s converted by Israel to serve as in-flight refuelers and electronic warfare control centres, suggests that Israeli technology is not invincible and the arms industry

Israel helped South Africa develop is not the perfect answer to the international arms embargo. But where could South Africa have obtained anything better?

### Israel's meaningless sanctions

Economic collaboration has also been proceeding apace, even though a second set of Israeli "sanctions," propounded in September 1987, was supposed to limit this aspect of the relationship, known to be geared to deceivingly exporting South African produce under Israeli labels and to helping Pretoria obtain embargoed goods. Last August a team from the Israeli treasury was reportedly scheduled to go to South Africa to renew economic agreements first signed in 1976.

In February it was revealed that Koor, the crisis-gripped conglomerate owned by Histadrut Labour federation, had taken \$80 million worth of loans from four South African banks to help stave off liquidation and that Koor was offering some of its divisions to sale to South African interests. In the course of these revelations Histadrut's frequently heard claim that it had divested itself of all its South African holdings was demolished as it emerged that Koor still runs a wholly-owned subsidiary, Afrita, an import-export firm in Johannesburg.

Following the visit in early February of a delegation from the pseudostate of Bophuthatswana

and the readiness of officers of such top Israeli firms as Bank Leumi and Clal to meet its members, it seems likely that Israeli investment in that bantustan will be increased. There have been reports over the past decade that the Israeli government provided weapons and technical assistance to the bantustans. Nonetheless, Israel doggedly maintains that it does not recognise the "tribal homelands" created by South Africa. It also tries to give the impression that it is against private business dealings with these centres of abject deprivation but, as the *Jerusalem Post* recently noted, "making any sort of investment outside (Israel), whether it involves plain cash or moving equipment, requires the approval of the Bank of Israel," Israel's central bank.

The flow to South Africa of Israelis with high-technology skills or money to invest has continued unabated; there may be as many as 20,000 of them in South Africa, according to leaders of the South African Jewish community.

In the face of all this, Israel continues to claim that it is "phasing out" its relations with South Africa, under its 1987 "sanctions." Later last year this line was buttressed by an assertion made by Wolf Blitzer, the *Jerusalem Post's* correspondent in Washington, which appeared widely in the American Jewish

press: during a trip to South Africa (to find out why only 15 per cent of the Jews fleeing that troubled land are going to Israel) Blitzer says he was told that the relations have been strained between Israel and South Africa since Israel began training black South Africans in 1986.

The assertion strikes those knowledgeable about South African politics as ludicrous: the blacks that have consented to go to Israel for training — mostly courses in "leadership development" — are issued travel documents by the South African government; they are not affiliated with the mainstream anti-apartheid organisations and the programme has been condemned by the African National Congress.

The uniformed might find this new line convincing. So might those who just don't want to know. However, the U.S. audience that once marvelled that a democracy like Israel could have such extensive dealings with the apartheid regime and accepted a delicately nuanced depiction of those relations has been decimated by the intifada. As Archbishop Tutu said during his recent New York address, "if you changed the names, the description of what is happening in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank would be a description of what is happening in South Africa" — Middle East International, London.

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# Jordan's handicapped stage sports festival

The Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped is hosting an Independence Day Festival Extravaganza this Wednesday, May 31, at 6:00 p.m.

Activities will include exhibitions in sitting volleyball and blind goal ball. A wheelchair basketball game between the Jordan national team and the American volunteers from Ambassador College will be the main event. His Royal Highness Prince Raed Bin Zaid, President of the J.S.F.H., will be present along with the visiting President of Ambassador College, Dr. Donald Ward. Following the game to celebrate this occasion, the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped is located just behind the Martyr's Monument next to the Faculty of Physical Education.

There is no admission charge and all are invited to come and take part in the excitement.

# Phillips wants Moses' record to add to title

SAN JOSE, Calif. (R) — Olympic gold medalist Andre Phillips would love nothing better than to break rival Edwin Moses' 400 metres hurdles world record — and he intends to do just that once his injured hamstring has healed.

"I wanted to go for it early in the season," Phillips told Reuters Monday. "But because of the injury it might be in August. But I still believe I can run under 47 (seconds) this year."

That would wipe out Moses' 1983 mark of 47.02 seconds.

Phillips said the two have not talked since the Olympics, when Phillips clocked 47.19 seconds — the fastest non-Moses time ever — and Senegal's Amadou Dia Ba finished ahead of two-time Olympic champion Moses.

"I thought he would have been happy that another American won the gold, but he never said anything," said Phillips, who had been chasing Moses for almost nine years.

"I don't understand that. He totally turned me off," Phillips said. "We stayed in the same hotel (in Seoul) and the next day we saw each other in the lobby. The air was so thick you could cut it with a knife. It was cold."

"As a competitor, he's the greatest 400-metres hurdler ever and I really admire his talent. But if I had to choose my friends, he wouldn't be one of them."

Moses recently said he would continue running through the 1992 Olympics and some say his real goal is to defeat Phillips for the gold in Barcelona.

By then Phillips hopes to be the record holder.

"I really feel there are several people capable of doing it," said the 29-year-old Phillips, who strained his left hamstring in a 100 metres last month and has not run competitively since.

"It's about 90 per cent healed, and I'm working out now," he said. "But for the first couple of weeks I couldn't do anything."

His first hurdles race probably will be the UCLA/Jackie Joyner-Kersey invitational in Los Angeles on June 10. Then it will be on to Europe for a series of competitions.

# SPORTS IN BRIEF

## French take lead in Athens

ATHENS (AP) — France's D. Aurioi with co-driver B. Occelli pushing their Lancia Delta HF Integral to the limit, clung to their slim lead Tuesday as the Acropolis motor rally began taking a heavy toll as it went into the third day. Aurioi, after a gruelling special stage early Tuesday on a gravel strewn road at the foot of Mount Pendeli near Athens, led with 2.26.10. Close behind was Massimo Biasion and T. Siviore in a similar car at 2.27.51. Only seconds and minutes separated the next three positions with Finland's Ari Vatanen and B. Berghund in a Mitsubishi Galant VR-4 with 2.28.01 followed by Spain's C. Sainz and L. Moya in a Toyota Celica Turbo 4WD at 2.28.33.

## Top riders appeal against fines

GENEVA (R) — World champion Eddie Lawson and other top riders have lodged appeals against fines imposed after they pulled out of this month's rain-hit Italian 500CC motor-cycle Grand Prix for safety reasons. International motor-cycling federation (FIM) general secretary Guy Maitre said Tuesday the disciplinary committee would hear the appeals against the 2,000 Swiss francs (\$740) fines sometime in July. "All the riders fined by the race jury as a disciplinary measure have appealed. Four appealed individually, the rest made a collective appeal. The disciplinary committee must give them a hearing within 45 days. It will most likely meet in the second week in July," he told Reuters.

## Wales to close terraces for World Cup

GENEVA (R) — Wales have agreed to seating only for their European group four World Cup soccer qualifier against West Germany in Cardiff Wednesday. An International Football Federation (FIFA) spokesman said Tuesday that the national stadium was a rugby ground with unfenced standing-room areas which could invite pitch invasions. "While he would like to do away with fencing altogether, the FIFA decision after an inspection is for safety reasons," the spokesman told Reuters from FIFA headquarters in Zurich. "Alan Evans, secretary of the Football Association of Wales, has assured us that only tickets for the seated areas will be sold."

## Olympic winners run in U.S. college meet

PROVO, Utah (R) — Olympic champions Steve Lewis of the United States and Paul Ereng and Peter Rono of Kenya lead the field in the four-day U.S. college championships starting Wednesday at Brigham Young University. Ereng, the 800 metres champion who attends the University of Virginia, is a solid favourite in his event while Rono, the 1,500 metres winner at Seoul and a student at Mount Saint Mary's college in Maryland, is a leading choice in the 1,500. Lewis, who won the 400 metres at Seoul, has been slowed by a hamstring problem for more than a month and the University of California at Los Angeles student could have problems winning his event if he is not fully recovered. The meeting also features the fastest runners in the world this season in the men's and women's 100 metres and the women's 100 metres hurdles. Jamaica's Raymond Stewart, a student at Texas Christian University, has clocked 9.97 seconds in the men's 100 and American Dawn Sowell of Louisiana State University has run the women's 100 in 10.93 seconds.

# Astaphan repeats allegations

# Johnson planned cover-up

TORONTO (AP) — Ben Johnson and his advisors planned in Seoul a coverup rather than publicly admitting the steroid use that cost the sprinter an Olympic gold medal, a federal inquiry was told Monday.

Dr. Jamie Astaphan said the meeting in the Seoul Hilton was held shortly after Johnson surrendered his medal last September. The session was convened by Johnson's coach, Charlie Francis, and was attended by the sprinter, his doctor and his U.S.-based agent, Larry Heidebrecht.

"The ultimate thing at that point in time was to cover up and protect Ben," Astaphan said. "Ben thought it would be the correct thing for us to cover up and literally get out of the hotel as safely as possible."

Earlier, Astaphan had said after a long delay that he recalled discussing steroids with Olympic decathlon medalist Dave Steen but not prescribing them for him.

Astaphan, who last week acknowledged providing Johnson with steroids, said he and Johnson discussed the coverup again during their flight to New York from Seoul. Astaphan quoted the sprinter as saying he would "deny it until things settled down — but that he was quite afraid to admit it publicly."

scheduled to begin testimony June 12.

Astaphan's discussion of Steen, who has repeatedly spoken out against drug use, came after a protracted pause and a recess in Canadian government hearings stemming from Johnson's positive steroid test at the Olympics in Seoul. Johnson was stripped of his gold medal in the 100-metre dash as a result.

The dramatic testimony began when Astaphan was asked by justice Charles Dubin whether he ever treated Steen, 29, a resident of Burlington, Ontario, just west of Toronto, who won the bronze medal in the decathlon.

"Yes, I did," the doctor replied.

"In what year?" Dubin asked. Astaphan paused, and his face contorted as it had during early testimony. They he replied: "either 1984 or 1985 — I'm not sure."

"Did you prescribe any steroids for him?" Dubin asked.

Twitching again, Astaphan remained silent for about 30 seconds before there was a brief recess in the hearing. When it reconvened, Dubin ordered

Astaphan to answer the question. "My recollection is we had discussions about anabolic steroids," the doctor said. "I far as I can recall I never gave him any."

Steen has said he spent three weeks with Johnson's coach, Charlie Francis, and Astaphan in the doctor's Caribbean Island homeland of St. Kitts in December 1987. Steen, said to be en route home from a training session in the United States, could not be reached for comment immediately.

But his lawyer, James McCutcheon, who was at the inquiry, said the doctor's statement proved Steen "never did drugs." McCutcheon said Steen expected to be called to testify at the inquiry.

Since the scandal in Seoul, Steen has repeatedly invited random drug tests, seeking to prove that not all Canadian athletes used steroids. He has repeatedly spoken out publicly against performance-enhancing drugs.

On returning from Seoul last October, Steen said he hoped the federal inquiry would go after drug users and not leave Johnson as a scapegoat.

# Gullit not certain for big Finland match

HELSINKI (R) — Ruud Gullit, an inspirational figure in AC Milan's European Cup final win over Steaua Bucharest last week, is battling to be fit for Wednesday's World Cup qualifier against Finland.

A decision on whether the dreadlocked Dutchman — who had a cartilage operation last month — plays will be taken a few hours before the start of the European group four tie.

Dutch coach Thijs Libregts was clearly anxious that Gullit should start the match when he said: "Our medical staff is working very hard to get him fit."

But Gullit said he preferred to start the match on the substitutes' bench and played down his value to the European champions.

"There are people who feel I'm tremendously important to the team," he said. "I don't feel that way... Marco Van Basten is the best player in the world, Frank Rijkaard is a star, Ronald Koeman is among the best in the defence and Erwin Koeman took his side to the Belgian tie."

Gullit has openly criticised Libregts for being too timid in his coaching since the Dutch scrambled a draw against West Germany in a World Cup qualifier in Rotterdam last month, and the Dutch press have been speculating that the match against Finland may be Libregts' last in charge of the side.

Algemeen Dagblad quoted Gullit as saying: "We have to go to the World Cup finals... that can't go wrong this time because the players take the initiative now."

# Pistons draw level with Bulls

CHICAGO (AP) — Isiah Thomas scored 27 points Monday, leading the Detroit Pistons to an 86-80 victory over Chicago that tied the Eastern Conference finals at two games apiece.

With the victory, the Pistons regained the homecourt advantage they lost last week when the Bulls won the series opener at Auburn Hills, Michigan, where the Pistons are 42-5 this season.

Two of the three remaining games are scheduled for the Pistons' homecourt at the Palace, with the winner of the series facing the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers in the National Basketball Association finals.

The Lakers are undefeated in 11 playoff games this season. Thomas, who now has 60 points in Detroit's two victories

and 14 in the two defeats, hit last-second baskets at the end of the second and third periods to give the Pistons narrow leads.

Joe Dumars added 15 points and helped limit Michael Jordan, averaging 37 points in the playoffs, to 23, only 11 of them after the first quarter.

Backup forward Dennis Rodman helped the Pistons control the boards with 18 rebounds, while reserve centre James Edwards added 13 points.

Scottie Pippen had 18 points for the Bulls.

The Pistons led 44-39 in the first minute of the second half before Pippen scored nine points in a span of 2:14, keying a 16-6 run that put Chicago ahead 55-50. Edwards then scored six points in 2:16, leading a 14-5 spurt that gave the lead back to Detroit.

Thomas' buzzer-beating jumper made it 64-60 after three quarters.

The closest the Bulls got in the fourth quarter was 64-62 before Thomas started a 15-7 run with a jumper. Another jumper by Thomas made it 79-69 with 4:38 left, and the Bulls got no closer than five after that.

Detroit missed 12 of its first 17 field-goal attempts and Jordan scored nine points as Chicago opened a 23-16 lead with 4:35 left in the first quarter.

But the Bulls scored only three points in the next seven minutes. The Pistons were slow to capitalise as they made only six of 12 free throws in the final 3:37 of the first period, then got two consecutive baskets for a 26-26 tie with 10 minutes left in the half.

# GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
©1989 Tribune Media Service, Inc.

## PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 9 8  
♥ A 8 4  
♦ K 5 4  
♣ 6 4 2

**WEST**  
♠ 6  
♥ K Q J 10 9 5 7 3 2  
♦ 9 8 7  
♣ A Q 8

**EAST**  
♠ 5 4 3  
♥ 10 8 6 5 4 3  
♦ Q J 10  
♣ J 10 9 7

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q J 10 7 2  
♥ 6  
♦ A 3 2  
♣ K 5 3

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 2 ♣  
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead: King of ♠

We are particularly fond of this hand's theme. When we first encountered it at the table, the declarer was the greatest woman player who ever lived, the late Helen Sobel Smith.

Note North's raise to two spades. Although he holds an ace and two kings, his spade distribution is a flaw and a simple raise describes his hand adequately, but he is maximum for such action.

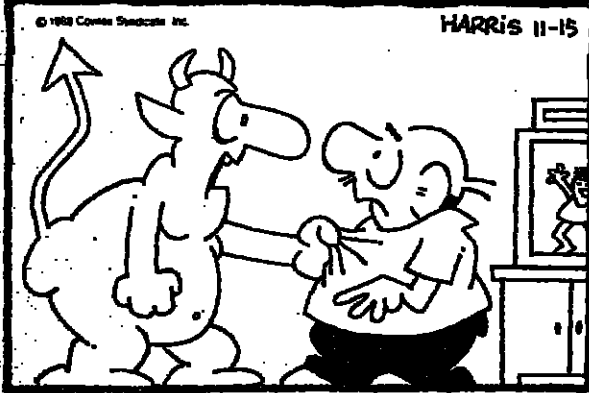
West led the king of hearts, and declarer's problem is obvious. He has a sure diamond loser, so he cannot afford to lose more than two club tricks. Since West almost surely holds the ace of clubs for his vulnerable overall, East cannot be allowed to gain the lead before a diamond is set up, because a club shift through the king could be fatal.

We would expect most good players today to make their contract. The solution is simple, yet elegant. Despite the fact that declarer holds a singleton heart, he should allow West's king to win the first trick. Now the contract can be guaranteed if diamonds are 3-3 or if West, by some miracle, holds the ace of clubs no more than doublington.

Suppose West shifts to a diamond. Declarer wins in hand, cashes the ace of trumps and continues with a low trump to dummy's nine. He discards a diamond on the ace of hearts, cashes the king of diamonds and ruffs a diamond. When both defenders follow, dummy's long diamond is established. Declarer crosses to dummy with the king of spades, in the process extracting the last of the defender's trumps, and takes the diamond for his 10th trick. He can then lead toward the king of clubs in a futile attempt to score an overtrick.

# THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Turn off your aerobics tape! I can't sleep with you stomping around on my roof!!"

# JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**PEINT**  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

**GITUL**  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

**TRAPIE**  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

**BIDROF**  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □"

(Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: PEACE DAILY GURFEW SMOKER  
Answer: Could that smart cookie be this? — A WISE "CRACKER"

# FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1989

# YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** The shake, rattle and roll of the last few days changes, and people focus more on work and productivity. The business climate improves as people unlock themselves from personal preoccupations. Ignore waggling tongues that overall weak ideas to boost their ego.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** Use your willpower to prevent stagnation. Ignore waggling tongues that overall weak ideas to boost their ego.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** You may have to deal with a crazy person or two today, or so it seems. Clear away important work and relieve the pressure.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)** Your formula for success is about the same as that for a nervous breakdown. Slow down and enjoy your triumphs. You've got it made!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)** You try to ignore a problem that just won't go away. Diplomacy and tact will help you wiggle out of a tight situation.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)** You get comfort from talking about what is in your heart. Call on friends who are part of your private support group.

**If Your Child Is Born Today** He or she will have lots of iron in the fire. Expect your son or daughter to prefer the fast lane to success. If your child has an advanced education, he or she will reap financial rewards. Expect your progeny to be mentally active, popular, impatient and sensual.

**VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)** A career potential looms bright in your future. You can be a prime target for advancement. Maintain physical fitness.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** The

# THE Daily Crossword by William Canine

1	Fastenings	14	_____	27	_____	40	_____	53	_____
2	Georgia	15	_____	28	_____	41	_____	54	_____
3	Cynopsis	16	_____	29	_____	42	_____	55	_____
4	Authors	17	_____	30	_____	43	_____	56	_____
5	Comma part	18	_____	31	_____	44	_____	57	_____
6	Rasound	19	_____	32	_____	45	_____	58	_____
7	Element	20	_____	33	_____	46	_____	59	_____
8	Con	21	_____	34	_____	47	_____	60	_____
9	(gender)	22	_____	35	_____	48	_____	61	_____
10	Calla Lily	23	_____	36	_____	49	_____	62	_____
11	Trade	24	_____	37	_____	50	_____	63	_____
12	Pen name	25	_____	38	_____	51	_____	64	_____
13	Venetian	26	_____	39	_____	52	_____	65	_____
14	magistrate	27	_____	40	_____	53	_____	66	_____
15	Volga tributary	28	_____	41	_____	54	_____	67	_____
16	Primped	29	_____	42	_____	55	_____	68	_____
17	Comery	30	_____	43	_____	56	_____	69	_____
18	Rennant	31	_____	44	_____	57	_____	70	_____
19	Family	32	_____	45	_____	58	_____	71	_____
20	nicknames	33	_____	46	_____	59	_____	72	_____
21	Out of sorts	34	_____	47	_____	60	_____	73	_____
22	Los	35	_____	48	_____	61	_____	74	_____
23	Senegalese	36	_____	49	_____	62	_____	75	_____
24	capital	37	_____	50	_____	63	_____	76	_____
25	San Antonio	38	_____	51	_____	64	_____	77	_____
26	landmark	39	_____	52	_____	65	_____	78	_____
27	Hurried	40	_____	53	_____	66	_____	79	_____
28	Sorbonne a.g.	41	_____	54	_____	67	_____	80	_____
29	18th century	42	_____	55	_____	68	_____	81	_____
30	revolutionist	43	_____	56	_____	69	_____	82	_____
31	"I am Born"	44	_____	57	_____	70	_____	83	_____
32	Prohibit	45	_____	58	_____	71	_____	84	_____
33	Conducted	46	_____	59	_____	72	_____	85	_____
34	Pronoun	47	_____	60	_____	73	_____	86	_____
35	Clark	48	_____	61	_____	74	_____	87	_____
36	Ostrman	49	_____	62	_____	75	_____	88	_____
37	Midwest suff.	50	_____	63	_____	76	_____	89	_____
38	Wissel	51	_____	64	_____	77	_____	90	_____
39	Little place in town?	52	_____	65	_____	78	_____	91	_____
40	Stride	53	_____	66	_____	79	_____	92	_____
41	Hiduous	54	_____	67	_____	80	_____	93	_____
42	Actor Ryan	55	_____	68	_____	81	_____	94	_____
43	Cattle	56	_____	69	_____	82	_____	95	_____
44	Satire	57	_____	70	_____	83	_____	96	_____
45	Satire	58	_____	71	_____	84	_____	97	_____
46	Words	59	_____	72	_____	85	_____	98	_____
47	Office	60	_____	73	_____	86	_____	99	_____
48	Four seasons	61	_____	74	_____	87	_____	100	_____
49	Parade	62	_____	75	_____	88	_____		
50	Jagged	63	_____	76	_____	89	_____		

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. RAIN 2. RAIN 3. RAIN 4. RAIN 5. RAIN 6. RAIN 7. RAIN 8. RAIN 9. RAIN 10. RAIN 11. RAIN 12. RAIN 13. RAIN 14. RAIN 15. RAIN 16. RAIN 17. RAIN 18. RAIN 19. RAIN 20. RAIN 21. RAIN 22. RAIN 23. RAIN 24. RAIN 25. RAIN 26. RAIN 27. RAIN 28. RAIN 29. RAIN 30. RAIN 31. RAIN 32. RAIN 33. RAIN 34. RAIN 35. RAIN 36. RAIN 37. RAIN 38. RAIN 39. RAIN 40. RAIN 41. RAIN 42. RAIN 43. RAIN 44. RAIN 45. RAIN 46. RAIN 47. RAIN 48. RAIN 49. RAIN 50. RAIN 51. RAIN 52. RAIN 53. RAIN 54. RAIN 55. RAIN 56. RAIN 57. RAIN 58. RAIN 59. RAIN 60. RAIN 61. RAIN 62. RAIN 63. RAIN 64. RAIN 65. RAIN 66. RAIN 67. RAIN 68. RAIN 69. RAIN 70. RAIN 71. RAIN 72. RAIN 73. RAIN 74. RAIN 75. RAIN 76. RAIN 77. RAIN 78. RAIN 79. RAIN 80. RAIN 81. RAIN 82. RAIN 83. RAIN 84. RAIN 85. RAIN 86. RAIN 87. RAIN 88. RAIN 89. RAIN 90. RAIN 91. RAIN 92. RAIN 93. RAIN 94. RAIN 95. RAIN 96. RAIN 97. RAIN 98. RAIN 99. RAIN 100. RAIN

**DOWN**  
1 Bridge  
2 Verne  
3 loc.  
4 Absolve  
5 Strata  
6 Greenish-blue  
7 Pale tan  
8 Sucker  
9 Canasco  
10 specialty  
11 Blind alley  
12 Shellot  
13 Toot  
14 Mount  
15 Kind of rubber  
16 See duck  
17 Thailand  
18 Clinders  
19 Winglike  
20 Essence  
21 Grind  
22 Stopover  
23 meridian  
24 Honolulu port  
25 Author  
26 Milne  
27 Flare  
28 Sausage  
29 Sausage  
30 Sausage  
31 Sausage  
32 Sausage  
33 Sausage  
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45 Sausage  
46 Sausage  
47 Sausage  
48 Sausage  
49 Sausage  
50 Sausage  
51 More sharp  
52 Ancestry  
53 Carlin role  
54 Rose  
55 Severity  
56 Potbelly  
57 Mediterranean  
58 Colors  
59 New city  
60 Squeals  
61 Besides

# Peanuts

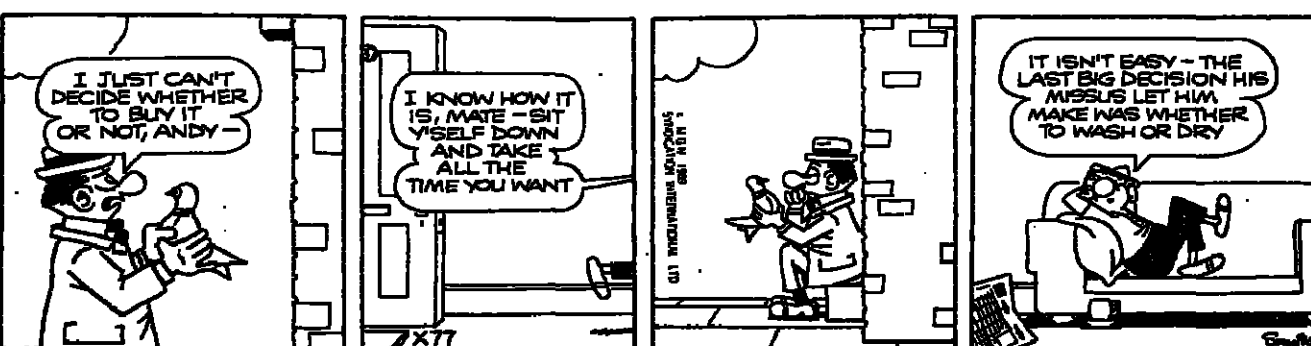


B.C.

BY JOHNNY HART



# Andy Capp





Soviet leader breaks custom to announce \$118b figure

# Gorbachev reveals military expenditure

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev acknowledged Tuesday that the Soviet Union spends 77.3 billion rubles (\$118 billion) a year for defence — nearly four times the last official claim — and promised military spending cuts.

Gorbachev also promised the country's new parliament that he would fight against bureaucrats holding back economic reforms aimed at improving the nation's quality of life.

In his speech to the Congress of People's Deputies, Gorbachev announced what he called "this real figure of military expenditures" — 77.3 billion rubles (\$118 billion) — and pledged to cut defence spending by 10 billion rubles (\$15.3 billion) by the end of 1991.

The traditionally secretive Soviet government has long concealed its true military expenditures, complicating East-West negotiations on arms reductions.

As recently as last October, the official Soviet budget for 1989 allocated 20.2 billion rubles (\$32 billion) for the military, the same figure that had been used the

previous year.

In his one hour and 35-minute speech, Gorbachev also:

— proposed creation of a special legislative commission to review the decades-old system of privileges for the Soviet elite.

— urged the deputies to grill government ministers on why they are dragging their feet on reforms. He acknowledged deputies' complaints that government ministries "are restructuring very slowly, if at all" and said, "we have to find out what is wrong."

— claimed all industrial production "must be reoriented to produce what the people need," a tacit acknowledgement that the primary issue cited by members of the elected parliament is improving the country's standard of living.

— pledged that the Communist

Party would be open to dialogue with any social group or organisation favouring reform.

The president told the deputies that their members elected to the smaller, full-time legislature, the Supreme Soviet, should "hold the levers of power in their hands" and exercise their authority to oversee governmental operations.

He suggested that the 542 lawmakers create commissions to examine the appointment of government ministers and ambassadors, review all treaties and ensure the rule of law.

**Cool greeting**

The speech was greeted coolly by one of the best-known legislators, populist Boris N. Yeltsin, who was added to the Supreme Soviet Monday in a deft political manoeuvre. He had been defeated twice earlier in his bid for election to the Supreme Soviet, but used a quirk in the election process to get appointed to the legislature.

"I was expecting something new, something entirely and radi-



cally new that would take into account the crisis state of society and the (Communist) Party," Yeltsin told reporters. "The slogan-making system doesn't work anymore."

Yeltsin has attracted a broad popular following with his outspoken campaign against the system of special privileges.

Gorbachev's address contained no direct response to U.S. President George Bush's announcement Monday of substantial cuts in U.S. forces in Europe and a call for swift East-West agreement on even deeper reductions by 1993.

# Argentina under state of siege after riots

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina (AP) — Police guarded stores and public buildings in several cities Tuesday after looting rampages prompted President Raul Alfonsín to suspend civil rights by declaring a nationwide state of siege.

At least two people were shot and killed, and a third suffered a heart attack and died during a rioting spree Monday in Rosario, 300 kilometres north of Buenos Aires, said the government news agency, Telam.

Like a wave of rioting that hit Venezuela three months ago, the rioting was touched off by Argentina's economic problems. Inflation and unemployment are soaring, the country's currency has been repeatedly devalued and workers' buying power is shrinking.

Forty-one other people, including five policemen, were injured in the rioting in Rosario, where 600 people were arrested, police said.

Another 300 people were arrested during looting rampages in working class suburbs of Buenos Aires. In the city of Mendoza in western Argentina, several supermarkets were looted Monday. In Cordoba, in the cen-

tral part of the country, a "hunger march" was staged. Police arrested 200 looters in Cordoba last week.

The looting, which began last week, was the worst since March 1976, when unrest prompted the military to oust then-President Isabel Peron in a coup.

Alfonsín's government, elected in October 1983 to replace a military dictatorship, was defeated in May 14 elections, in large part because of the country's foundering economy.

Alfonsín "had no alternative" than to declare the state of siege, suspending civil liberties in order "to preserve order and guarantee the property and liberty of citizens, and the right to work."

Interior Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese said.

Pugliese, who until last week was economy minister, blamed the unrest on "ultra-leftists... who want to cause anarchy." He contended that the looting was coordinated, police radio signals were jammed and pamphlets were distributed encouraging Alfonsín to resign immediately and workers to stage a general strike.

But leftist leaders denounced Alfonsín's decision to declare the state of siege — a measure that is

more comprehensive than a state of emergency — and blamed the disturbances on the president's failed economic policy.

"The way to calm people down is to grant an immediate salary hike of 100 per cent, index wages weekly, freeze prices and tell businesses and stores — on pain of confiscation — to deliver immediately food and medicine at the frozen prices," said Luis Zamora, a national deputy of the Movement Toward Socialism.

Many groups of looters were led by women and children, some of whom ate in the supermarkets before fleeing with food. One government official denounced the presence of women and children as a tactic "to avoid police repression."

The state of siege must be approved by Congress, which was scheduled to meet Tuesday afternoon. It empowers police to conduct raids without warrants and make arrests without charges any more specific than suspicion of wrongdoing.

Early Tuesday morning, police said they detained three leftist political activists in Rosario and accused them of carrying weapons, distributing pamphlets and inciting violence.

# COLUMN

## Stevie Wonder takes music to Prague

PRAGUE (AP) — The age of soccer stadium pop rock has begun for Czechoslovakia, as U.S. superstar Stevie Wonder began his "Peace Conversations" tour in Prague. "I never imagined people will listen to my music here," Wonder told journalists Monday night before his first concert. "This music speaks of love and united culture." The tour kicked off in Munich, West Germany in April, and apart from Scandinavia, Greece and Australia, it takes the blind singer and songwriter to three Communist Bloc countries. Wonder played to thousands of Poles in Warsaw Saturday, and in an unprecedented move he let 50,000 copies of his latest album "characters" be distributed by Polskie Nagrania, the official Polish record company, donating all royalties to the Polish foundation for the handicapped. At Prague's Sparta soccer stadium Monday, the crowd of 20,000 lit candles as Wonder went through a three-hour recital, featuring old hits like "Jammin'" "Superstition".

## NATO laughs at itself

BRUSSELS (R) — Drunken, boorish, incompetent and lazy. No, that's not the Russian view of the Western soldier — it's how the fighting men of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) varied nationalities like to see each other. A colour cartoon has become a best-seller on the launch pad of the NATO summit, purporting to reveal the national traits of the Western alliances 16 members. In comic-strip style, the poster-sized cartoon shows the image and the reality of the alliance's fighting men. Drawings depict quite the opposite as captions sent a sentence in the centre which reads "the perfect NATO member should be..." "Sober as a Norwegian, discreet as a Dane, reserved as an Italian, straightforward as a Brit, active as a Spaniard, organised as a Greek, relaxed as a Turk, conspicuous as a Luxembourg, intelligent as an Icelandic, humble as a Frenchman, technical as a Portuguese, available as a Belgian, humorous as a German, calm as a Canadian, flexible as an American, generous as a Dutchman." The drawings show the Norwegian drunk, the Dane dallying, the Italian cavorting, the Brit scheming, the Spaniard asleep, the Greek in a mess, the Turk in a rage, the Luxembourg ignored, the Icelandic incomprehensible, the Frenchman arrogant, the Portuguese wrecking a computer, the Belgian on leave, the German not amused, the Canadian bellicose, the American inflexible and the Dutchman refusing money to a beggar.

## Top model chosen 'Marianne'

PARIS (R) — Model Ines de la Fressange has been chosen for the 1990s image of the French republic but her slim physique could pose a problem for designers of the traditionally full-figured sculptures. De la Fressange, the favourite model of West German designer Karl Lagerfeld, will replace actress Catherine Deneuve as "Marianne," the image of the republic which is used as a model for busts in official buildings around France. Designers said sculptures of de la Fressange would have to be "adjusted" because Marianne is usually depicted as a full-figured woman. Deneuve was Marianne for the 1980s and sex-kitten Brigitte Bardot held the honour in the 1970s. De la Fressange defeated actresses Isabelle Adjani, Sophie Marceau and former Health Minister Michèle Barzach in the competition organised by Vogue magazine and judged by a panel of French mayors.

## Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	08/13	18/24	Cloudy
ATHENS	13/25	28/39	Clear
BANGKOK	29/30	34/38	Clear
BANGKOK	24/25	34/38	Clear
BEIJING	12/15	18/24	Clear
CAIRO	25/27	35/38	Clear
CHICAGO	05/12	22/27	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	11/12	18/20	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	12/14	20/24	Cloudy
GENEVA	10/12	20/24	Cloudy
HONG KONG	26/28	30/32	Clear
ISTANBUL	13/15	18/24	Clear
LONDON	13/15	21/27	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	15/20	29/32	Cloudy
MADRID	10/20	31/34	Cloudy
MEXICO	28/32	43/46	Cloudy
MONTREAL	08/16	21/27	Cloudy
MOSCOW	11/22	25/27	Clear
NEW DELHI	25/26	42/47	Clear
NEW YORK	11/13	23/27	Cloudy
PARIS	12/14	24/26	Cloudy
ROME	12/14	24/26	Cloudy
TOKYO	15/20	26/28	Clear
VIENNA	13/15	24/27	Clear

# Uno faces challenge to premiership

TOKYO (AP) — Senior politicians objected Tuesday to the proposed appointment of Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno as Japan's new prime minister as the country grapples with a bribery and influence-peddling scandal.

Uno had been expected to be called back early from international conferences in Paris to be confirmed Thursday as the new head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and Friday as prime minister.

But after a series of meetings among party leaders, no call went out for Uno's return, and the political situation remained fluid.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who has promised to resign to take responsibility for

the influence-peddling scandal, wants Uno to succeed him. Party elders, however, have objected.

Former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki, with whom Takeshita met Monday and again Tuesday morning, told reporters that the Japanese public might not accept Uno because of his close political ties with Takeshita's predecessor, Yasuhiro Nakasone. Uno, 66, is a senior member of Nakasone's faction in the ruling party.

Nakasone was forced to quit the ruling party because of the scandal and compelled to testify under oath before a parliamentary committee about his links to the Recruit Company, the information conglomerate at the centre of the scandal.

Recruit is accused of trying to influence government policy by doling out millions of dollars in political donations and selling underpriced, unlisted stock shares to business and political leaders in 1986.

The stock quickly rose in price when placed on the market, and those who received the unlisted shares reaped tens of thousands of dollars in profits.

Takeshita heard another objection to Uno from former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, who suggested Tuesday that the party should be ruled by a group rather than one person. Takeshita reportedly agreed to examine Fukuda's proposal and meet him again later.

Another leader, former Deputy Prime Minister Susumu Nakaido, told Takeshita late Monday that the party should not hurry in choosing the next leader, news reports said.

But the apparent lack of consensus on his candidacy made it possible that further consultations would be needed.

The head of the ruling party normally becomes prime minister because of the party's large majority in parliament.

On Monday, Nakasone resigned from the party to take responsibility for the Recruit scandal having taken place during his 1982-87 tenure as prime minister. He said he would keep his seat in parliament.



Sosuke Uno

# BBC 'Soviet spies' report sparks uproar

LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party challenged the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Monday to explain why it broadcast a report that Soviet citizens expelled from Britain for spying had been trying to blackmail Labour members of parliament (MP).

Labour's Communications Director Peter Mandelson wrote to the BBC asking if it was true that the blackmail allegations were leaked by members of the MI-5 and MI-6 intelligence services.

BBC and newspaper reports last week said the alleged blackmail attempts were one reason why the government expelled eight Soviet diplomats and three journalists May 19. Moscow expelled 11 Britons in retaliation.

Labour legislators have alleged that MI-5 and MI-6 leaked the blackmail story in order to smear the party, which is campaigning to bring the intelligence services under parliamentary scrutiny.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe took the unusual step at the weekend of denying the ex-

pulsions were linked to attempted blackmail. He also denied the misinformation was leaked by the government.

Mandelson wrote to Tony Hall, BBC television's news and current affairs editor: "There are many journalists in the BBC itself who are profoundly unhappy that television news should have gone along with what can only be described as an attempt to smear Labour MPs."

He asked Hall at what level the decision was taken to broadcast the allegations and whether it was true that no attempt was made to check them with the prime minister's office, the foreign office and the Labour Party.

A BBC spokesman said Mandelson's letter had not yet been received, but would be replied to in due course. The story was based on a background briefing by British sources, he added. "We were satisfied the views were important and should be made public. We made clear throughout that they were allegations," the spokesman said.



'I LOVE THE SUN' — Stefania Folini greeting journalists in Carlsbad, New Mexico, as she emerged from a cave after an isolation experiment of more than four months last week.

# Testing begins on woman who spent 130 days in cave

HOUSTON (AP) — A 27-year-old woman who spent a record 130 days isolated in a New Mexico cave began undergoing a series of tests Monday that could yield clues about the medical effects of long-term space flight.

Early indications are that Stefania Folini, an interior decorator from Ancona, Italy, who volunteered for the experiment, is faring well despite losing seven kilograms and showing signs of lethargy and inattentiveness during her latter days in the underground Plexiglass home.

"At this point, all of the results have been normal. There is nothing strange that we have noticed, not even simple anemia," said Dr. Andrea Galvagno, one of two Italian researchers

who have monitored her health. "There is nothing at this point that would make me feel nervous about her health," he said, adding that it is still too early to tell what specific effects the long-term isolation had on her immune system.

Dr. Jon DeFrance, who is assisting in the research, said previous isolation studies have shown "a change in the immune function whereby a person might become susceptible to certain types of diseases."

"Of course, this has rather profound implications for a space flight," said DeFrance, an associate professor at Texas Medical School in Houston.

A weeklong series of tests will include a skin sensitivity test at

the Johnson Space Centre and a bone density examination at the Baylor College of Medicine here, researchers said.

Folini, whose sense of time became so disoriented during isolation that she emerged May 23 thinking the date was March 14, said she is still having a hard time adjusting again to a 24-hour day.

She glanced constantly at her watch during an afternoon press conference.

She said she felt healthy after her seclusion, despite losing weight and once going for three months without a menstrual cycle. Subsequently, she had three in less than three weeks.

# Philippine lawmakers star in anti-bases film

MANILA (AP) — Two Filipino lawmakers have stepped from the legislative halls onto the "silver screen" in a new film aimed at mustering opposition to the six U.S. military bases here.

Senator Joseph Estrada and Representative Anna Dominique Coseteng, outspoken opponents of the bases, are finishing work on "In The Eagle's Claw," which depicts what they say are the adverse social effects of the bases on Philippine society.

Estrada, a former actor and mayor until his election to the Senate in 1987, said he decided to make the movie after realizing that many Filipinos are not even aware of the presence of the

bases, much less what he terms their ill-effects.

U.S. diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, say Estrada's strong anti-bases position could become a major factor in the national debate on the installations because of his wide following among ordinary Filipinos.

Estrada was one of the leading vote-getters in the May 1987 senate elections although he was not endorsed by President Corazon Aquino. Estrada later joined the pro-Aquino coalition.

In the movie, scheduled for release in June, Estrada plays a driver in Olongapo, home of the Subic Bay naval base. The plot

centres around Estrada's search for justice after his adopted daughter is raped by a U.S. soldier.

Coseteng plays a human rights lawyer and journalist who becomes involved in Estrada's crusade. Both later join groups lobbying for removal of the bases.

Estrada said the film would depict such adverse effects as prostitution and U.S. political interference, which anti-bases advocates say continues because of the presence of the installations.

"Usually, people shy away from propaganda pictures," said film director Augusto Buenaventura. "This is an enter-

taining picture with a social message. People still pay to see a movie to be entertained."

To add to the commercial appeal, Buenaventura said the film is spiced with fist-fights, gun-battles, comedy and sexy scenes depicting nightlife in bars that surround Subic and Clark air base, the two largest U.S. installations.

The shift from the Halls of Congress has not been difficult for Estrada, who was among the country's leading film stars specialising in gangster movies.

Coseteng, who hosts a weekly television programme on feminist issues, took acting lessons to prepare for her role.

